

## Palestinians to open S. Lebanon road

BEIRUT (R) — Palestinian fighters, in a gesture of peace to the Shi'ite Amal militia, said Saturday they would withdraw from a vital highway serving a cluster of villages in South Lebanon. They said the move was a response to Amal's lifting of a siege on two Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut Wednesday but Amal promptly dismissed it as inadequate unless the fighters also pulled out from nearby fortified positions. A local Palestinian coalition said in a statement that barriers on the Iqlim Al Tuffah road from the port of Sidon would be lifted Sunday. The road was taken over by fighters in October 1986. Haidham Jumaa, a senior Amal official, told Reuters the fighters should also withdraw from all the villages they had captured east of Sidon, "otherwise their move would be meaningless." Amal has maintained a partial siege of Rashidiyah refugee camp near the southern town of Tyre despite saying this would be lifted together with the blockades of Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila camps in Beirut, to honour Palestinian protests in the Israeli-occupied territories.

# Jordan Times

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## Genscher arrives in Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher arrived here Saturday for talks with Israeli leaders that are expected to focus on the possibility of a Middle East peace conference and bilateral relations, officials said. Genscher is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, President Chaim Herzog, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and other Israeli leaders before flying to Brussels Sunday night. Genscher is expected to press Israeli leaders to agree to an international Middle East peace conference. On Friday, a Bonn Foreign Ministry official said the Palestinian protests in the occupied territories and Israeli measures to counter them had "increased the urgency for an international peace conference." A delegation of ambassadors from Islamic states has met with Bonn Foreign Ministry officials to express concern over developments in the occupied territories. Moroccan Ambassador Abdul Kader Benslimane told reporters that the 12-member delegation met with Foreign Ministry officials Thursday.

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## Cabinet approves draft laws, charters

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet held a regular session Saturday and discussed and approved a number of draft laws and charters, including a charter for award and Islamic affairs which grants the Awqaf Council the authority to award certain societies to run mosques and form committees for building mosques and collecting donations for this purpose. The charter also regulates pilgrimage affairs. The Cabinet approved a law covering the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC). Under the law, the ACC is brought under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture and the minister of agriculture assumes the post of ACC chairman. The Cabinet also approved a charter that grants the Greater Amman Municipality enhanced power over public works projects.

## Hamami: Jordan, Egypt seek collective Arab stand

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan's ambassador in Cairo said Saturday that the recent visit to Jordan of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and his meeting with His Majesty King Hussein were within the framework of continuing coordination and consultation between the two leaders to achieve Arab solidarity and to crystallize a unified Arab stand. Ambassador Hassan Hamami described Mubarak's recent Gulf tour as "a message to the all that the Arab World is one nation." The ambassador, in an interview with Cairo Television, said the current Arab uprising in the occupied territories stresses the need for achieving a peaceful and just settlement in the region through an international peace conference. "Israel will not succeed in imposing its fait accompli policy and will not be able to repress the Arab uprising because it is based on genuine reasons," Hamami said.

## Fayez to head team to APU talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will be taking part in the meetings of the 18th session of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) scheduled to open in Tunis Monday. Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akel Al Fayez, who is also APU president, will head the Jordanian delegation to the session. Fayez, in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that during its four-day meetings, the union will study topics such as the role of Arab parliamentarians in achieving Arab national goals.

## Baccouche arrives here tomorrow

AMMAN (Petra) — Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche is due here Monday on a two-day visit to Jordan. His Majesty King Hussein is expected to meet Baccouche. During his visit the Tunisian premier will also hold talks with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on the latest developments in the Arab scene and bilateral relations.

## Iraqi leader receives Kuwaiti message

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein received a message Saturday from the emir of Kuwait concerning the "strong relations between the two brotherly countries," the Iraqi News Agency said. It gave no details of the communication from Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah (Kuwait send envoys to Iran, page 2).

## Austria probes arms report

VIENNA (R) — Austria said Saturday it was investigating whether a shipment of guns to South Africa via Israel violated Austrian laws on arms exports. An Interior Ministry statement said 85 packages of Czechoslovak-made handguns weighing about 2.5 tonnes were transported by truck from Vienna to the provincial city of Graz. Shipping company papers indicated that 33 of the packages and 300 rifles were subsequently flown by Israel's El Al airlines from Tel Aviv to Johannesburg last November, it added.

# Nazareth stages huge rally in support of Palestinian revolt

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Thousands of Israeli Arabs staged a massive rally in support of their Palestinian brethren in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Saturday, and demanded an end to Israeli occupation of Arab lands.

Protests were reported in the West Bank, and in Jeru-Jerusalem the first curfew in 20 years of occupation remained in force. Palestinian reports said about 15 Arab protesters were injured from beatings or rubber bullets, and two more wounded by army gunfire.

In Nazareth, some 30,000 Arabs from villages throughout Israel gathered to protest Israeli policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Israeli army get out!" many of the protesters chanted as they marched down the town's main road. "We want a Palestinian state."

The protesters carried signs bordered in black which bore the names of the Palestinians killed in seven weeks of violence in the occupied lands.

Hundreds of extra police stood by but avoided interfering in the march and a subsequent rally.

A one-day strike by most of Israel's 750,000 Arabs last month

turned violent in many areas, including Nazareth. It shocked many Israelis, who had come to view Israeli Arabs as separate from Palestinians in the territories and well-integrated into Israeli society.

Darawshe quits Labour  
The marchers cheered wildly when a prominent Arab member of parliament, Mohammad Darawshe, announced he was resigning from the Labour Party in protest over Israeli military policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"(My resignation) is a protest against the iron-fist policy that (the defence minister, Yitzhak) Rabin, with the support of Labour, has carried out," Darawshe told the crowd.

"I say yes, yes, yes to negotiations with the PLO, yes to a Palestinian state, and yes to a return to the 1967 borders," he said.

## Klibi opens Tunis talks on W. Bank and Gaza with call for Security Council action

TUNIS (Agencies) — Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi called Saturday on the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to find a solution to the Palestinian problem. He also described the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as "heroes who have roused the world's esteem and admiration."

Klibi was speaking at a special session of Arab foreign ministers called to discuss the ongoing Palestinian revolt in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The meeting began with a moment of silence for Palestinians in the occupied territories. Klibi said the five permanent members of the Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France — should express their determination to carry out U.N. resolutions aimed at bringing about peace in the Middle East and settling the Palestinian problem.

Klibi accused Israel of "violating international law and of committing acts considered by the international community as contrary to the ethical principles on which its existence is based."

He said there was a bond between the Palestinians in the occupied territories and all Arabs who had been battling to end Israeli occupation.

Klibi said the revolt clearly demonstrated that Israeli propaganda was "absurd when it says there is no Palestinian problem" or that "Palestine is a land without people."

He called on Arab countries to pay homage to the Palestinians in the occupied territory by giving them moral and material support.

The meeting of the foreign ministers and representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is expected to end Sunday.

The PLO was expected to call on Egypt to break relations with the Jewish state.

Arab League sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told AP Libiya planned to present a headline resolution calling for a common Arab strategy against Israel and recommending a meeting of Arab defence ministers.

They said Libiya intended to announce a pledge of \$150 million to the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The head of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, Giorgio Giacomelli, was due to address the opening session of the foreign ministers' meeting, Arab League officials said.

Giacomelli, whose organisation provides aid to Palestinians in the occupied territories, met Klibi here before the session.

## Jordan voices total support for uprising

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan Saturday called for Arab political and material support for the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza to enhance its strength, power and momentum.

During the Arab League's council meeting, held here at foreign minister level, Foreign Minister Tahir Al Masri expressed Jordan's total support for the uprising and the Kingdom's faith in the justice of the Arab cause and the country's belief that the struggle against the occupiers should be fully developed.

Masri proposed that the Arab League and its members move on three different fronts: The United Nations, World and European governments and on the occupied Arab territories front, in the form of support for the inhabitants of the territories and their uprising.

"Balladur's visit to Jordan will be of political significance in terms of regional developments and bilateral relations," the source told the Jordan Times on

(Continued on page 4)

## Jordan backs Soviet call for U.N. meeting

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan Saturday welcomed and voiced support for a Soviet proposal to hold a United Nations Security Council meeting at foreign minister level to pave the way for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

A statement issued by an official spokesman and carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the government had studied the contents of a message that the Soviet Union sent to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar calling for convening the meeting. "The Jordanian government welcomes the Soviet proposal, which is in harmony with the collective Arab stand agreed upon during the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman last

November," the spokesman was quoted as saying by Petra. The Soviet proposal, added the spokesman, which was sent by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and released Thursday, "comes at a time when the Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories are keeping up their uprising and is considered by Jordan as an effective and serious step giving momentum to peace efforts."

The government hopes that the Soviet proposal will receive favourable response from the members of the Security Council and win the support of the international community, the spokesman said.

The Soviet foreign minister was quoted Saturday as saying by a Kuwaiti newspaper that he had called on the Security Council to take "urgent, very active and

dynamic" action over the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories.

In an interview with Al Qabas conducted in Madrid, Shevardnadze described the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as "painful... and escalating in danger and tension."

He said that at the instructions of his government, he has sent an urgent message to Perez de Cuellar "suggesting that the Security Council hold meetings at the level of foreign ministers of the permanent (member) countries as soon as possible to discuss the dangerous situation in the occupied Arab territories."

"The situation in the Middle East has become so complicated that it necessitates an urgent, very active and dynamic move by the Security Council, the result of which should not be confined to

issuing statements and condemnations," Shevardnadze told the paper.

Asked about a visit to Moscow by an Israeli diplomatic team and an earlier trip to Israel by a Soviet delegation, Shevardnadze said: "There are contacts between technical employees of the (Soviet) Foreign Ministry and their Israeli counterparts to discuss purely technical and consular affairs."

He added: "I don't see any reason for giving any other description to these contacts."

Shevardnadze denied that the Iran-Iraq war has become a secondary issue for the Soviet Union since the outbreak of Palestinian protests in the Israeli-occupied territories on Dec. 8.

"The Iran-Iraq war still is at

(Continued on page 4)

## Iraqi army general killed in crash

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A senior Iraqi army commander and members of his staff were killed when their helicopter crashed in northern Iraq, a military spokesman said Saturday.

He said the helicopter carrying Fifth Army Corps Commander Major-General Abdul Aziz Ibrahim Al Hadithi crashed late Friday in hills near the town of Shuan because of a technical fault.

The Iraqi news agency (INA) said the helicopter crashed at 5.20 (1420 GMT) Friday, and that the accident was "caused by a technical fault."

The agency said later that Hadithi's remains and bodies of his companions were recovered Saturday.

Tehran Radio claimed that the helicopter was shot down by Revolutionary Guards. But the Iraqi military spokesman denied the claim saying it was "a cheap lie."

The Iraqi spokesman said Hadithi was commander of the Fifth Army Corps, which defends the oil city of Kirkuk and other northern areas against Iranian and Kurdish guerrilla attacks.

He said the helicopter was found early Saturday after a big search by soldiers and local Kurds.

Kurdish rebels and Iranian Revolutionary Guards are engaged in an offensive some 200 kilometres north of the crash site.

Aziz issues new warning  
Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz warned that Iran was preparing for an offensive against Iraq and called anew on the U.N.

Security Council to impose sanctions on Iran to enforce a council resolution to end the Iran-Iraq war, INA reported.

Aziz warned that "any delay in punishing the aggressive Iranian regime would directly weaken the Security Council..." and would help in continuing the threat against the security and stability in the Gulf and the world as well.

Iran and Iraq meanwhile stepped up attacks on shipping in a 24-hour blitz in which at least four tankers had been hit by early Saturday.

Iranian speedboats raided the Danish tanker, the 33,650-tonne refiner, and would help in continuing the threat against the security and stability in the Gulf and the world as well.

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## King condolences Iraqi president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday telephoned Iraqi President Saddam Hussein offering his condolences over the death of Gen. Abdul Aziz Ibrahim Al Hadithi and his accompanying officers.

The King also called President Hussein expressing his sorrow and the condolences of the people, government and Armed Forces of Jordan over the death of Al Hadithi and his colleagues.

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## Tunisia resumes formal ties with Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — Tunisia and Egypt announced immediate resumption of diplomatic relations Saturday after a break of almost nine years.

The announcement came in a statement issued simultaneously in Cairo and Tunis. The Foreign Ministry in Cairo released the text.

The joint statement said the resumption was prompted by the two nations' common destiny "as well as the desire to consolidate (relations) further for the benefit of the two countries and the Arab Nation."

Tunisia became the 10th Arab state to restore relations with Egypt since the Nov. 8-11 extraordinary Arab summit in Amman gave Arab League members the green light for diplomatic reconciliation with Egypt.

The Tunisian move left only five of the Arab League's 21 members without diplomatic ties to Cairo — Syria, Libya, Algeria, Lebanon and South Yemen.

The Egyptian-Tunisian move followed a flurry of high level diplomatic contacts between officials from both countries over the past week.

Sahbani, on a two-day visit, told reporters Baccouche would soon pay an official visit to Egypt.

Tunisia restored diplomatic relations with Egypt less than a month after renewing ties with Libya, a fierce critic of Cairo.

Tunisian officials later said plans had been made for a visit by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to Tunis but the Libyan leader did not turn up despite fresh Tunisian and Algerian invitations to Libya to join a 1983 non-aggression pact.

"These (distortion) attempts are also aimed at creating confusion so the real enemy is missed and the right direction is lost. Our main conflict will also become a sub-conflict," Tishreen said.

Soon after his return from Riyadh, Sharaa left for Tunis to attend a meeting of Arab foreign ministers who will discuss Palestinian protests in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The Gulf states agreed earlier this month to hold a dialogue with Iran after a tour of the region by Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Sharaa.

But diplomats in Damascus cited several recent developments which appeared to cast a pall over the Syrian efforts, including a tour of Gulf states by a top Iraqi official who they said argued against dialogue with Iran.

The six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — generally support Iraq.

Other discouraging signs were rejection of dialogue by some Gulf newspapers and renewed tit-for-tat raids in the Gulf tanker war, the diplomats said.

But Syrian officials said their diplomatic efforts had created a positive atmosphere.

"A leader in every home"

In past years, the Israelis were able to quell Palestinian protests because they knew who the leaders were and would immediately imprison them. Now they are unable to control the uprising because they are unaware of the new leadership. Saleh defines the leadership as a "generation which cannot be numbered. A new breed of young people born under occupation and which has accumulated a wealth of experience. There is a leader in every home."

Although the uprising is a spontaneous, homegrown revolt, not instigated or imported from outside, it is organised, unlike previous occasions. "There is coordination between the leaders in different areas, cities and city quarters. They are directing and managing the revolution according to the potential of the population," Saleh said.

He said the leaders may call for a demonstration in Ramallah one day, the following day they rest, and the day after they hold a demonstration elsewhere. "Similarly, different merchants open for a few hours, then they close. In addition, new ways of

(Continued on page 3)

## It's political dynamite on both sides... violence will continue until a political proposal emerges Analysts see uprising as new phase in Palestinian struggle

Following is the first part of a two-part article. The second part will be published in tomorrow's issue.

By Najwa Najjar  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prominent political analysts perceive the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza as a new stage in the Arab-Israeli conflict and which may lead to an international peace conference depending on how the Arabs and international community react. They expect the first impact of the uprising to be felt on the Israeli political scene by the widening polarisation between the Labour and Likud parties, and predict that the balance will probably be tipped in favour of Likud. However, if this uprising does not achieve its aims, the analysts predict, the next round will be more violent and bloodier.

Over the past 20 years of Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, most Israelis saw these territories as part of "Eretz Israel" (greater Israel), and this presumption was reinforced with the signing of the 1979 Camp David accords between Egypt and Israel, leading columnist Tareq Masarweh said in an interview with the Jordan Times.

Masarweh says the weaknesses of Arab states further encouraged the continuation of the Israelis' assumption that Arab land was their land.

Israel itself was convinced and it also convinced the outside world that it could dominate the Palestinian people forever, but the Palestinian uprising that began Dec. 9 has been proving

otherwise, says Palestine National Council (PNC) member Assad Abdul Rahman, director general of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.

For starters it destroyed the notion that the Arabs in the occupied territories were a silent majority accepting the conditions they were living under, and showed that there are limits to power, no matter how brutal its users are. "The abject conditions prompted this uprising, and will make future uprising inevitable," said Abdul Rahman, who also writes extensively on Palestinian affairs.

The chairman of the World Affairs Council, Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, professor of political science at the University of Jordan, considers the past seven weeks of violence more than an uprising: "It is a political, social, economic, nationalist revolt against the repulsive conditions the Palestinians are subjected to. It is the first genuine revolt organised by the Palestinians on their land since 1948."

The Palestinians in the occupied territories took matters into their own hands because "they were not encouraged by the way the Palestinian problem was being handled," said the head of the Jerusalem centre for development studies, Abdul Jawad Saleh, deported mayor of the West Bank city of Al-Bireh. He said the Palestinian leadership and inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip were committed to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the pan-Arab programme of an international conference. Saleh said the concerted effort exerted by the Palestinians in the occupied territories had reduced factionalism.

Mohammad Milhem, a member of the PLO Executive Commit-

tee, said the goal of the inhabitants of the occupied territories conforms with that of the PLO and Arab states. "Protesting, resisting and condemning the occupation have been continuous over the past two decades. What has manifested is the latest development in the rejection of occupation," Milhem said.

"A leader in every home"

In past years, the Israelis were able to quell Palestinian protests because they knew who the leaders were and would immediately imprison them. Now they are unable to control the uprising because they are unaware of the new leadership. Saleh defines the leadership as a "generation which cannot be numbered. A new breed of young people born under occupation and which has accumulated a wealth of experience. There is a leader in every home."

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(Continued on page 3)

# Goulding predicts more bloodshed until Palestinian issue addressed

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — A U.N. official who visited Israel's occupied territories says bloodshed may not end there until Palestinians become convinced that something is being done on their behalf.

"Something has been unleashed," Undersecretary-General Marrack Goulding said Friday, "and it's probably not going to go away unless the Palestinians can see that the fundamental problem is being addressed."

Goulding recently returned from a fact-finding mission to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, where Palestinians have been revolting for six weeks. At least 39 have been shot to death in an Israeli crackdown.

He said he talked to more than 200 Palestinians as he gathered information for a report to the Security Council, and that all of them rejected occupation.

"There is certainly a feeling of

mobilisation and unity that strikes me," Goulding said in an interview. "In talking to people of all ages and classes there was a striking unanimity in what they said."

Goulding's trip contributed to a report to the Security Council on what he can do to protect the 1.5 million Palestinians living in the territories occupied by Israel since the 1967 Middle East war. The report, issued Friday, says peace talks ending the Arab-Israeli conflict are the only real answer.

Goulding said the unrest stems from a "cumulative process of discontent."

"The occupation has become

more and more unacceptable to the people in the territories because of the hopelessness of it," he said. "Years pass and nothing seems to be happening."

Without the prospect of a Palestinian homeland, the situation will probably not improve, Goulding said.

The report to the Security Council calls for an international peace conference under U.N. auspices, something Israel has so far rejected.

"I think that the developments in the occupied territories have been very troubling to Israelis," Goulding said. "I hope that as a result, perhaps more people will see more clearly that they have in the last few years the imperative need to get a political settlement."

The document sets out a litany of Palestinian complaints, including human rights violations, eco-

nom discrimination and squalid living conditions. All are denied by Israel, the report notes.

Goulding was critical of the way Israel has handled the crisis. "My own view is that less harsh behaviour by the Israelis would probably lead to a reduction in the tension and the violence. But that view is diametrically opposed by the government of Israel," he said.

"I don't think that this is a problem which can be addressed by beatings or starving people into submission," Goulding said. Meanwhile, retired U.S. Ambassador Philip Habib, who served as President Ronald Reagan's negotiator in the Middle East and Central American, said the Reagan administration should revitalise the Middle East peace momentum by agreeing to international participation.

## New Belgian minehunter heads for Gulf

BRUSSELS (R) — A new Belgian minehunter left for the Gulf Saturday to take over Belgium's patrolling duties in the waterway, port authorities in Zeebrugge said.

The Crocus, one of a new generation of minehunters jointly built by France, Belgium and the Netherlands, was due to arrive in the Gulf about March 1.

It has a 48-member crew and will replace the Bovesse which has been on Gulf patrol since November.

Another minesweeper, the Breydel, which has been working with the Bovesse, is now on its return voyage since Belgium decided to scale down its forces in the Gulf.

Defence Ministry sources say

the Belgians have failed to detect any mines in the region where they have been working with other Western navies to help keep shipping lanes clear.

Meanwhile the Italian government approved a decree law Friday raising money to keep its fleet in the Gulf, after an earlier funding measure was thrown out of parliament.

Defence Minister Valerio Zanone presented a cabinet meeting with the decree, which will cover the costs of a naval force sent to the Gulf in September to protect Italian merchant shipping.

Late Wednesday a walkout by opposition Communist senators embarrassed the government by leaving the upper house without a quorum to pass a previous fund-

ing decree.

The decree, the second Gulf funding measure to be thrown out by parliament, had to be approved by midnight. Decrees take effect as soon as they are agreed by the government but must be passed in parliament within 60 days.

Last November a funding decree fell after members of the coalition voted with the opposition in a secret ballot.

The Italian fleet of three frigates, three minesweepers, and two support vessels, is due shortly to be cut back because of a reduced risk from mines in the Gulf.

Zanone said last week a minesweeper and support vessel would return home soon and a frigate might be pulled out in March.

## Kuwait sends envoys to Iran

KUWAIT (R) — Two Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry officials are in Tehran to reclaim possession of Kuwait's embassy, sacked by demonstrators last Aug. 1 and held by the Iranian government since, a Kuwait paper said Saturday.

The Arab Times quoted Ahmad Ayub, chief of protocol at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, as saying the officials left for Tehran Thursday and would check the documents and contents of the embassy before its reopening.

Demonstrators stormed the building in protest at the deaths of hundreds of Iranian pilgrims in the Muslim Holy City of Mecca in clashes with Saudi police on July 31.

The two Kuwaiti diplomats in the embassy at the time fled and were recalled.

Ties between Kuwait and Iran were further strained last September when the emirate accused Iran of firing Silkworm missiles at its oil installations and declared five Iranian diplomats persona non grata.

## Khamenei says Khomeini rulings are God's commands

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iranian President Ali Khamenei has reaffirmed the authority of spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, saying his rulings were equivalent to commands from God.

Khamenei, whose narrow interpretation of the powers of the state was rejected by Khomeini earlier this month, said at Friday prayers:

"The supreme Islamic leader, by relying on his judgment and reasoning or on religious evidence, deems a certain issue to be in the best interest of society and acts on it and this is God's command and this command is obligatory for everyone to obey."

The president's comments, reported by Tehran Radio monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, followed a ruling by Khomeini two weeks ago backing reformist sections of the clerical leadership.

The ruling flew in the face of the traditional conservative wing of the Iranian leadership which

seeks to limit the government's role in the economy.

Khamenei said he accepted Khomeini's views as "inviolable principles of Islam" and Friday repeated his acceptance of the ayatollah's authority.

"In reality, the legislative and executive bodies owe their legitimacy to their reliance on and authority of the supreme Islamic leader. The latter is like a soul within the body of the system," he said.

Diplomatic analysts said the ideological differences in the leadership had blocked key government decisions.

Khamenei said Friday that Western naval units patrolling the Gulf were gradually pulling out and that the United States would "eventually" follow suit.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Khamenei as saying: "Western countries which were America's protectors (in the Gulf) have begun withdrawing from the region quietly, one after the other."

## Greece condemns Israel's 'fascist occupation'

ATHENS (Agencies) — The Greek government has condemned Israeli arbitrary measures in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip calling it a "fascist occupation."

Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu made the statement earlier this week on the occasion of the visit here of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat.

"The outrageous and unacceptable intervention of the military forces of Israel in the occupied territories caused an international condemnation. Even the U.S. has taken position in the Security Council condemning the occupation and the unacceptable methods of torturing of a whole population," Papandreu said.

Three held in bid to burn Cairo nightclub

CAIRO (AP) — Police Friday arrested three Muslim fundamentalists as they prepared to set fire to an empty nightclub in a Cairo suburb, a cabinet minister said.

The leading state-owned newspaper Al-Ahram, in Saturday's early editions, quoted Interior Minister Zaki Badr on the attempt which occurred after Muslim dawn prayers. The nightclub had closed for the night.

Badr, whose ministry is in charge of public security, said advance information enabled police to ambush the three men at the nightclub before they carried out their plan.

## U.S. prepares to host Mubarak, Shamir

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Reagan administration is preparing to host Egyptian and Israeli leaders in separate visits as it tries to breathe new life into a search for Middle East peace made more urgent by Palestinian unrest.

American officials "are really scratching their heads and trying to see what's possible" but there is not much hope that a breakthrough in stalled regional peace efforts could happen any time soon, U.S. government sources said Friday.

While insisting that "we are continually looking for ways to advance the (Middle East) peace process," State Department spokesman Charles Redman said "there are currently no plans or decisions concerning a new initiative or a special envoy."

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is due to arrive in Washington Tuesday for three days.

And, as announced by the White House Friday, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who had private talks with Reagan at the White House last November, will come for a full-scale state visit in mid-March.

Both the Mubarak and Shamir trips were well in the works before Palestinian protests erupted last Dec. 9 causing the worst unrest since Israel took control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip 20 years ago.

But the violence, which has resulted in the deaths of at least 39 Palestinians, "has placed the peace process higher on the (U.S.) agenda," one U.S. official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters.

Mubarak, just back from what this official called a very successful, high-profile tour of the Gulf states, will discuss many issues during his Washington talks but a primary focus will be Middle East peace moves and the Iran-Iraq war, U.S. officials said.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater, announcing Shamir's visit, told reporters: "It is fair to say that the problems of the West Bank and Gaza have given new urgency to this."

Shamir's spokesman in Tel Aviv denied the visit was connected to unrest in the occupied lands, although he agreed the Israeli leader and Reagan would discuss peace moves.

International pressure for a political settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict has increased in recent weeks as the Palestinian protests against Israeli rule continued.

Washington, which gives Israel \$3 billion annually, joined other countries in criticising Israel's use of live ammunition against Palestinians protesting against Israeli rule.

The United States has said repeatedly the only solution to the conflict is direct peace talks between Israel and Arabs.

## Israeli decision not to use bullets too late to save Gaza's youngest victim

BEIT LAHIA, Gaza Strip (R) — The Israeli army's decision to rely on beatings rather than bullets to quell Palestinian protesters came too late to save 13-year-old Ramadan Yunis Ahmad Isbihi.

He was small for his age, so small that United Nations medical staff who saw his bloodied body carried into a U.N. clinic in Gaza's sprawling Jabalya Refugee Camp on Dec. 13 thought he was 10.

Either way, he became the youngest Palestinian killed in six weeks of revolt in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank.

His family, telling his story in a draughty bedroom with bare concrete walls on the edge of this quiet farming village, proudly called him a "martyr" for the Palestinian cause.

The Israeli army, despite repeated requests for information, said it knew nothing about Ramadan's case. Military sources said this was probably due to confusion in accounting for every casualty, rather than any attempt at a cover-up.

Thirty-nine Palestinians, including Ramadan, have been killed by Israeli security forces since Dec. 9. Their deaths did much to fuel the Palestinian uprising and the story of Ramadan's killing helped reveal its roots.

"The death of my son didn't on its own get the attention of the world," said the boy's father, Yunis Ahmad Isbihi, 42, seated on a mattress among a group of relatives, saying he was proud that Ramadan had died.

"Everything that happened here (in the territories) got the world's attention... when they (the world) pay attention to what is going on, a solution will come," said Yunis, wrapped up against the evening chill.

Eight days before Ramadan's death, Beit Lahia was declared a "closed military area" to all but its residents because correspondents used it as a route to reach the curfewed camp of Jabalya, the Isbihi family said.

Until then the village was little known in the Arab-Israeli conflict. An Isbihi cousin from Beit Lahia was hanged by the British in Jerusalem in 1945 as a Palestinian revolutionary, the family said.

Yunis was at work in the fields and only the mother was at home when Ramadan and brothers Mohammad, 14, and Ismail, seven, left Sunday Dec. 13 for a protest march to Jabalya.

The brothers had gone to demonstrations before and asked no one for permission, their father said. With eight sons and five daughters it was difficult to keep track of their whereabouts.

Mohammad, a shy boy who grimly stood bolt upright as he answered questions, said Ramadan was carrying a three-foot-long (one-metre) Palestinian flag — black, white and green with a red triangle.

Asked who Ramadan's hero was, he looked astonished at such a question and blurted out: "Abu Ammar," — the nom de guerre of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat.

"Ramadan always said he wanted to be a guerrilla like Abu Ammar," Mohammad said.

The boys walked the three kilometres south to Jabalya camp, where the 50,000 residents were confined indoors by an Israeli military curfew, U.N. officials said.

They said the protest started on the outskirts of the camp in the afternoon as a crowd of several hundred attempted to get in. Israeli troops arrived to stop them, and they clashed.

Soldiers kick Ramadan's face

"It happened near the sewerage pit," said Mohammad, adding that he was about 10 metres from Ramadan. "They shot him in the right arm with a rubber bullet, so he moved the flag to his other hand."

Other family members, who were not at the scene, said they heard from demonstrators that the first bullet was live ammunition but a doctor's report made no mention of a wound consistent with that.

"Then another (live) bullet hit him and he fell down," said Mohammad. "A woman came to give Ramadan first aid but the soldiers hit her. Then I came to carry my brother and they pushed me away."

"One of the soldiers hit Ramadan in the knee and rolled his body over. He then put his foot in (kicked) his nose and teeth."

It was not possible to independently verify exactly what happened. Experts have said child witnesses are usually as accurate as adults on central events but tend to be weak on peripheral details.

A report by the government-run Shifa Hospital in Gaza City

said Ramadan, dead on arrival, was killed by a bullet that entered at his left armpit and hit his heart.

Elsewhere in the confrontation, 11-year-old Raed Salman was shot and wounded while two protesters collapsed after inhaling tear gas and two other people were beaten up, the U.N. officials said.

Mohammad said he was so frightened to tell his family what had happened to Ramadan that a family living nearby hid him for several hours before taking him home.

Ismail, with tears in his eyes, said he also escaped in the confusion after the shooting and was sheltered by people until they took him back to Beit Lahia the same night.

"We realised Ramadan was missing at 8:30 p.m. — three hours after the accident," said the father. "We went and looked in all the hospitals in the area and finally found him in Shifa Hospital, dead."

After an ageing relative obtained written authority from the local Israeli military governor, the family was allowed to take the body back to Beit Lahia, Yunis said. The corpse was kept at home overnight.

The funeral, by order of the military governor, took place the next morning. The family said Israeli soldiers watched but did not interfere.

"The women were crying and singing national (Palestinian) songs because he died as a martyr, because the enemy killed him," said the father.

"We were support the PLO," he added. The Isbihi family is truly Gazan, having lived in Beit Lahia since before the creation of the Jewish state in 1948 and the occupation of the Gaza Strip by Israel in 1967.

No Palestinians have been killed by troops in Israeli-occupied territories since Jan. 15 when the army decided to use beatings rather than shooting to end the Palestinian uprising.

"The goal is to act against violence with force, with punches and blows not with live ammunition," Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said last Tuesday, justifying the policy change. "Nobody dies from this."

Mohammad and Ismail said they were ready to die for Palestine but have not been to any demonstrations, since the day Ramadan fell with the flag.

## Arabs complain about U.S. candidates

WASHINGTON (AP) — The leader of an Arab-American group has said only one of the 13 major U.S. presidential candidates — Democrat Jesse Jackson — is addressing the issue of Palestinian rights.

"We found the candidates reflecting positions that were at best inadequate," said Dr. James Zogby, executive director of the Arab American Institute.

The lobbying group issued a report that added, "the result of this absence of real debate is that U.S. Middle East policy is not subject to the checks and bal-

ances of public scrutiny, nor are the candidates and office holders held accountable for their policies regarding the Middle East."

The group singled out Republican Pat Robertson for strong criticism, comparing the former television Evangelist's beliefs on the Middle East to Jim Jones, the cult leader who led his followers into mass suicide in Guyana in November 1978.

Zogby said Robertson has preached that the battle of armageddon will be fought with nuclear weapons in the Middle East in mankind's final struggle

between good and evil before the second coming of Christ.

Scott Hatch, a spokesman for the Robertson campaign, called Zogby's accusation "judicious."

Zogby was also critical of Republican presidential candidate Pete Du Pont, whose position on the Middle East was contained in a two-paragraph statement giving unconditional support to Israel.

"Pete Du Pont, you are unacceptable to lead the nation — bottom line," Zogby said.

Zogby said Robertson's beliefs are dangerous.

TV & RADIO	
<b>JORDAN TELEVISION</b> Tel: 77111-19	<b>BBC WORLD SERVICE</b> 639, 720, 1323 KHz
<b>PROGRAMME ONE</b> 15:30 ..... Koran 15:50 ..... Programme Review 15:55 ..... Cartoons 16:05 ..... Dennis the Menace 16:25 ..... Children's programmes 17:45 ..... Local programme 18:15 ..... Soccer 19:10 ..... Local agricultural programme 19:45 ..... Programme review 20:00 ..... News in Arabic 21:30 ..... Arabic series 21:30 ..... Programme on Arabic 22:00 ..... T.V. Magazine (local) 22:00 ..... News Summary 22:57 ..... Close down	<b>PROGRAMME TWO</b> 15:00 ..... Rue Racot 15:30 ..... L'Ecole des Fautes 15:40 ..... News in French 15:45 ..... International Circus Festival 15:50 ..... News in Hebrew 15:55 ..... News in Arabic 16:00 ..... Farrington of the F.O. 16:10 ..... Ernest Hemingway (documentary) 22:00 ..... News in English 22:28 ..... Secret Army
<b>RADIO JORDAN</b> 855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz FM & partly on 650 KHz, SW Tel: 77411-19	<b>PROGRAMME ONE</b> 06:00 Newsweek 06:30 A Mozart Miscellany 06:45 Reflections 06:50 Financial Review 07:00 World News 07:09 Happy Talk 07:30 Stuart Colman's Record Hop 07:45 Letter from America 08:00 Newsweek 08:30 Sex and Society 09:00 World News 09:09 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 From Our Own Correspondent 09:45 Sportsworld 09:50 Waveguide 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 Sportsworld 10:45 A Personal Look at Remembrance 11:00 World News 11:09 The Sunday Papers 11:15 Science in Action 11:30 Financial News; Look Ahead 11:45 Australia Round 12:00 News Summary; Sex and Society 12:15 Classical Record Review 12:30 War Grave Commission Talk 12:30 Religious Service 12:40 World News 12:49 News About Britain 13:15 From Our Own Correspondent 13:20 War Graves Commission Talk 13:30 Musical Masters of the Baroque 13:35 From Our Own Correspondent 14:00 News Summary; Play of the Week: Chicken Soup with Barley 14:10 Part 2 of 14:15 My Music 14:45 The Saudi Jones Request Show 15:00 News Summary 15:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 15:30 A Matter of Honour 15:45 The Saudi Jones Request Show 16:30 Back to Square One 16:45 Taste of Blood 17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:09 Commentary 17:15 Concert Hall 18:00 World News 18:09 Reflections 18:15 Rescuing the Rhino 18:30 Sportsworld 19:00 World News 19:09 Commentary 19:15 Jazz for the Asking 19:45 Sports Roundup 20:00 Newsweek 20:30 My Music 21:00 News Summary; Classical Record Review 21:15 Feature 21:30 News Summary 21:39 Stock Market Report 22:30 Sunday Half Hour 23:00 News Summary; Short Story
<b>VOICE OF AMERICA</b> MW 1260 & SW 720, 9545, 1174, 11925 and 15210 KHz	<b>PROGRAMME ONE</b> 06:00 News 06:10 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 News Horizons 07:30 Studio One 08:00 News 18:10 Encounter 18:30 Special English News & Features 19:00 News 19:10 Critic's Choice 19:30 Issues in the News 20:00 News & Features 20:30 Special English News & Features 21:00 News 21:10 Sunday Report 21:30 Music, USA Standards 22:00 News 22:10 The Concert Hall 22:25 Editorial 23:00 News 23:10 News Horizons 23:30 Studio One

WHAT'S GOING ON	
<b>TODAY'S EVENTS</b>	artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Museum, Jabbal Lubedeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.
<b>EXHIBITIONS</b>	* A painting exhibition by German artist Ingelborg Grieseler at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until Jan. 30). * An exhibition about medical research in France at the French Cultural Centre (until Jan. 28). * An exhibition of colour slides entitled "Mosques in Jordan: An Art and Culture" by Boghos Darakjian at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Jan. 24). * Plastic art exhibition, by Marwan Allan at the Soviet Cultural Centre (until Jan. 31).
<b>CULTURAL CENTRES</b>	Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267 American Centre .. 644371 American Centre Library .. 641520 British Council .. 6361478 French Cultural Centre .. 637009 Goethe Institute .. 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre .. 644025 Spanish Cultural Centre .. 624049 Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777 Hayat Arts Centre .. 665195 Jabal Lubedeh .. 6671816 Jabal Lubedeh, news in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366 Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541 Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 623383, chaplain's residence tel. 601359 Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331 Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261 St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751 American International Church (Lutheran) Jabal Lubedeh, meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 677534 Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir 811295 Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) Interdenominational-cum-ecumenical English Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. Tel. 822605, Rev. Val.
<b>MUSEUMS</b>	"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Hayat Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday. Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
<b>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</b>	This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.
<b>ARRIVALS</b>	<b>ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)</b> 09:15 ..... Agaba (RJ) 09:30 ..... Kuwait (RJ) 09:40 ..... Jeddah (RJ) 10:00 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 10:00 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 10:45 ..... Cairo (RJ) 17:00 ..... London (RJ) 17:00 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ) 18:30 ..... Athens (RJ) 18:45 ..... Frankfurt (RJ) 18:45 ..... Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ) 18:15 ..... Brussels, Geneva (RJ) 18:30 ..... Madrid, Rome (RJ) 23:55 ..... Baghdad (RJ)
<b>OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)</b>	09:00 ..... Berlin (IF) 09:35 ..... Cairo (MS) 11:20 ..... Damascus (AZ) 11:45 ..... Kuwait (AZ) 12:45 ..... Sharjah, Doha (GF) 12:55 ..... Jeddah (SV) 13:40 ..... Kuwait (KU) 15:30 ..... Baghdad (IA) 16:35 ..... Athens (OA) 18:25 ..... Beirut (MS) 19:15 ..... Frankfurt (LF) 21:05 ..... Cairo (MS) 06:25 ..... London, Cairo (BA)
<b>REPARTURES</b>	<b>ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)</b> 07:00 ..... Agaba (RJ) 11:00 ..... Vienna, New York (RJ) 11:30 ..... Tunis, Casablanca (RJ) 12:30 ..... Cairo (RJ) 19:40 ..... Kuwait (RJ) 19:40 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 19:40 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 19:55 ..... Baghdad (RJ) 20:00 ..... Jeddah, Sharjah (RJ) 20:00 ..... Cairo (RJ) 20:15 ..... Damascus (RJ)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
<b>EMERGENCIES</b>	Amman governorate ..... 891228 Amman Civil Defence ..... 198, 199 Civil Defence Isbihi ..... 271293, 273131 Civil Defence Quneitra ..... 770333 Civil Defence Deir Alla ..... 57306 Ambulance ..... 198, 775111 Amman downtown fire brigade ..... 198 First aid ..... 6203 Blood Bank ..... 62030-3 Civil Defence rescue ..... 661111 Fire headquarters ..... 622090-3 Police rescue ..... 192, 621111, 637777 Police headquarters ..... 620141 Traffic police ..... 8953901 Electric Power Co. 6363814, 624881 Municipal water complaints ..... 771258 Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 5333060
<b>NIGHT DUTY</b>	AMMAN: Dr. Awad Hawasneh ..... 776665 Dr. Youssef Rashed ..... 896301 Dr. Munir Oqash ..... 896101 Dr. Adel Amari ..... 812148 First pharmacy ..... 661912 Firdous pharmacy ..... 783136 Al Asena pharmacy ..... 636385 Nairoth pharmacy ..... 626372 Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730 Yacoub pharmacy ..... 649445 Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660 TAXIS: Aham taxi ..... 663911 Venecia taxi ..... 644585 Palestine taxi ..... 671473 Shmeisani taxi ..... 665286 Mehyar taxi ..... 645774 Khayyam taxi ..... 841572 Jordan taxi ..... 625050 Asen taxi ..... 844503
<b>HOSPITALS</b>	Russeini Medical Centre ..... 813813/332 Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. .... 642816 Al-Hilal Maternity, J. Amn. .... 642412 Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 636140 Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140 Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 6641714 Shmeisani Hospital ..... 84580465 University Hospital ..... 6672279 Al-Muasher Hospital ..... 66612

## Newly-elected board of bank employees union to tackle question of dismissals

By Elia Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

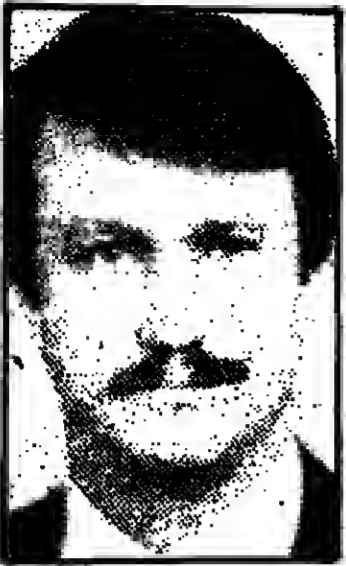
AMMAN — The new board of the General Union of Bank, Insurance and Accounting Employees will focus attention on the question of dismissals and forced resignations of bank employees, and the cancellation of their fringe benefits, according to the former board chairman Haidar Rashid who was reelected to the board in Friday's union elections.

Rashid told the Jordan Times that issues such as health insurance and annual increments will also be on the agenda of the new board, which he expected to be formally instituted shortly.

The elections brought nine union members, including Rashid, to the new board. The former chairman won 802 votes out of a total of 1,236 votes counted late Friday night. The other winners are: Abdullah Khaili (786 votes), Mousa Shakhshir (745), Mohammad Qasem (695), Samara Al Khattab (661), Ahmad Abbadi (678), Jamal Ayyad (685), Hakam Jarrar (709) and Yousef Hourani (635).

A total of 34 candidates ran for the board and three contested for the board chairmanship. Union sources said that Rashid was bound to be reelected chairman since he won the highest number of votes in Friday's election.

Rashid said that the board will



Haidar Rashid

deal with any new complaints raised by the union members, as well as tackle the problem of members being forced to resign from a number of local banks. Press reports have said that, over the past three months, as many as 12 employees from the Cairo-Amman Bank were served notice for the termination of their employment, and that two more forced resignations were underway at another bank in Amman. But Rashid said that there was much exaggeration in the figures. The union election coincided with renewed calls in the local press for the Central Bank of

Jordan (CBJ) to intervene to stop the forced resignation of bank employees. Reports have said that local banks were forced to terminate the services of some of their employees in order to reduce expenses, as the banks' volume of operations and profits had declined.

The CBJ last year received petitions from the General Union of Bank, Insurance and Accounting Employees to intervene and prevent the laying-off of 32 employees from the British Bank of the Middle East and the Grindlays Bank Ltd., both of which are operating in Jordan. The lay-offs were made in June and July of 1987, and the union subsequently held a general assembly meeting which condemned the moves describing them as arbitrary measures and as a dangerous development threatening the future of bank and insurance company employees throughout the country.

Rashid said, then, that the local banks were not deterred from laying-off employees due to the fact that existing labour laws do not require the employers to justify dismissals. The legislation, which was adopted nearly 25 years ago, does not provide for a minimum protection of workers' rights and interests, Rashid noted.

The general assembly meeting sent a memorandum to the CBJ urging it to intervene and put an end to the summary dismissals.

## Jordan to pay JD 4.8m to W. Bank, Gaza teachers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan announced Saturday that it would pay allowances to all teachers in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip employed after the 1967 war when the territories were occupied by Israel.

An official statement by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that at least 10,300 teachers would benefit from allowances which will total JD 4.8 million in 1988.

Last year, extra allowances to teachers in the occupied territories were paid through the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs, in cooperation with the

Cairo-Amman Bank branch in Nablus.

According to Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin, these allowances amounted to 50 per cent of their basic salaries.

Ministry sources said that the beneficiaries are all teachers at the government schools in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Upon announcing the arrangement for allowances last May, the minister said that the sums would be granted in addition to a JD 10 million government allocation for urgent economic and social projects in the West Bank.

## Hamzeh meets with WHO expert

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh Saturday discussed with a World Health Organisation (WHO) expert cooperation and the exchange of expertise between the ministry and the Zagreb-based International Institute for Planning and Management of Primary Health Care Services in Yugoslavia.

WHO expert Zelimir Jakic voiced the institute's readiness to receive a number of ministry doc-

tors at its annual nine-week training course. Jakic noted the possibility of holding specialised courses in Jordan, in cooperation with the institute, in order to turn out lecturers in general medicine.

Hamzeh expressed his appreciation of the institute's training courses and their significant role in improving the performance of the doctors at ministry health centres.

## Man murders sister

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 36-year-old man, identified by police only as A.M.A., Saturday shot and killed his 29-year-old sister.

The murder occurred at the

Hay Nazzal area of Amman, and the woman's body was taken to Al Bashir Hospital for autopsy, according to a police source. The source could not provide the motive for the murder, but said A.M.A. was being questioned by police.

In another development, a 24-year-old woman from Hasa, south Jordan, died of gunshot wounds after being shot by her husband. The man was apprehended and investigations are underway.

## Lower House endorses death sentence for narcotics dealers

By Nermeen Murad  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Saturday endorsed a draft law carrying the death sentence for drug dealers with records of previous similar offences, for convicted narcotics dealers who enlist the services of juveniles and for dealers who sell drugs to juveniles.

According to the draft law, the death sentence also applies to drug enforcement personnel who are convicted of drug-related crimes. Drug dealers who are connected with international drug trafficking networks also face the death penalty.

Capital punishment will also be applied to drug traffickers involved in arms smuggling or counterfeiting banknotes, and to those who have any links with international organised crime operations.

Other punishments ranging from three-month to life prison terms with hard labour were also approved by the Lower House in a bid to limit drug trafficking in and through Jordan.

According to parliamentarians who spoke during Saturday's session, the drug problem in Jordan stems mainly from the country being used as a "transit station" for Middle East drug-trade. They said that the problem of drug use and addiction in Jordan was "much smaller."

In addition, at least 10 deputies called for the introduction for a law banning alcohol in Jordan in compliance with Islamic law.

Leith Sbelleit (Amman) told the Lower House that since the law dealt with narcotics and substances which influence the performance of the mind, alcohol

"should be included, since everyone agrees that alcohol does affect one's mind."

Yousef Al Azem (Maan) also called for the banning of alcohol, stressing that he supported the "positive step undertaken by the government by introducing the death sentence for offences drastically affecting the well-being of the Jordanian family and the society at large." Azem was referring to a law endorsed by the Lower House on Jan. 12 which stipulated that those convicted of raping girls under 15 years of age would be executed.

Suleiman Al Qudra (Ajloun), chairman of the House Legal Committee, said the question of banning alcohol in Jordan could not be debating within the context of discussions on the narcotics law. "I agree with you that alcohol is a taboo in Islamic law, but the committee cannot discuss a law that is not related to narcotics as specified in the draft law."

He said the decision by the Legal Committee to approve the law was based on similar laws adopted by most Arab countries and the recommendations of the various conferences and seminars on drugs. He pointed to Arab agreements on drug control passed in 1961, an amendment law passed in 1972 and the Narcotics Law of 1971, in addition to basic

principles on drug enforcement adopted in international organisations.

The House also discussed the 1982 Tanam and Landlord Law before returning it to the Legal Committee for further study. The law, introduced to the Lower House by the government, drew mixed reactions from the deputies, who claimed that it contained many loopholes.

Rizk Bataneh (Irbid) told the House that "loopholes which existed in the draft law were the direct reason behind so many court cases." But he added that his feeling is that these loopholes had been "covered by the legal committee," and that there was "a pressing need for it to be passed quickly to help courts solve pending cases."

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai told the deputies that although the Legal Committee had been able to clarify many of the ambiguities in the law, there still remained "some points which needed further clarification." Rifai added that the law "should not be cause for dispute between landlord and tenant, but should be a law that serves all citizens — a combination of both."

An amendment to the Jordan Academy of Arabic Law was passed by the Lower House. The House referred the amendment to the Archaeological Law of 1988 to the Legal Committee for further study, and the Post Office and Post Savings Fund Law of 1988 to the Financial Committee.

The Lower House also referred to the Administrative Committee the proposal for the formation of a ministerial committee to study the situation of archaeological sites in Karak, as well as a proposal to upgrade the district of Ajloun to a governorate.

## AOAD allocates \$100,000 for W. Bank studies

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) has recommended that \$100,000 be allocated for studies on agricultural projects in the occupied West Bank and that a specialised laboratory be set up in Jordan, the secretary general of the Ministry of Agriculture, Salem Al Lawzi, announced Saturday.

Lawzi was speaking upon his return from an AOAD meeting which concluded in Khartoum

Friday. The AOAD allocation, Lawzi said, for studies on the West Bank, was among resolutions adopted by the AOAD's council which discussed subjects related to food security in the Arab World and affiliated schemes.

The Khartoum meeting also decided to go ahead with a study on the adverse effects of food shortages in the Arab World as requested by the Arab Economic and Social Council and issued an

appeal to Arab governments to support the work of an Arab ministerial council charged with conducting studies on the environment and means of halting the encroachment of deserts on arable land, Lawzi said.

The AOAD also recommended that Arab states give more backing to current studies on agricultural marketing, a pan-Arab water strategy and on means for the improvement of

livestock and cattle in the Arab World, he said.

The AOAD meeting, Lawzi added, urged Arab countries to organise periodic seminars and conferences designed to promote agricultural marketing, rationalisation of food consumption and development of irrigation systems.

Lawzi was accompanied to the Khartoum meeting by two senior officials of the Ministry of Agriculture.

## Abdul Hamid Shoman Public Library makes great strides in providing information and education

By Najwa Najjar  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As of today, two years have passed since the Abdul Hamid Shoman Public Library (AHSL) in Amman was opened. This period witnessed considerable progress in all the activities sponsored by the library.

The library, one of the many projects of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation (AHSF), was established to foster continuing education, supplement school and university education, provide up-to-date information and encourage academic excellence with special emphasis on the sciences, according to AHSF Director-General Assad Abdul Rahman.

At a reception Sunday, Rahman announced the library's most recent achievement: "We have finished putting together the union list of English periodicals which shows all the English-language periodicals in 36 public and private libraries throughout Jordan."

The union list of Arab periodicals, and the union catalogues of Arabic and English books are soon to follow. Rahman said he hoped that all 53 libraries in Jordan would participate by submitting the names of all their periodicals, references and books. "This joint loan system will help rationalise costs. If this library subscribes to one periodical, there is no need for, say, the Municipality of Greater Amman Library to subscribe to the same periodical. They can use the money for subscription to another periodical," he said.

Within the coming weeks, Rahman said that AHSL should be operating a full computerised data bank. "At the touch of a button, anyone can know whether or not the information they need is available and where." Once the library's holdings are indexed in the bank, AHSL will become the first library with a scientific Arab data bank in Jordan, according to AHSL Information Department Director Ghassan Abdullah. "We will be using the only arabised information package, Minis, for documentation and information in a ten-terminal computer," he said.

Abdullah pointed out that once the data bank is linked with others in the Arab World and internationally, duplication efforts will be reduced: "Often there is duplication of subjects because researchers are unaware of the material available in the Arab World or worldwide, or material is translated twice for the same reason. The data bank should clarify what scientific



Children learn the magic of computers at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Public Library's computer centre.

material is available."

He added that future plans include establishing a bibliographical data bank of scientific and technical works published in the Arab World since the middle of the nineteenth century and the compilation of a who's who of Arab scientists.

The AHSL computer centre has been making great strides, as well. Starting with only five microcomputers, the centre now boasts 15. Programmes which teach students to use computers and other instructional courses are also offered by the centre.

One student, Ma'n Zada, who is studying computer science at the University of Jordan, said that there is a need for more of the latest computer programmes. He suggested that computer companies donate software to ensure that students have access to current information.

Zada, who has been using the centre for the past two years, said that the best step taken by AHSL was buying IBM-compatible computers, since this is the system used at most Jordanian universities.

Mamoun Ghader, who heard about the computer centre at the Royal Scientific Society where he is taking computer courses, said that he spends most of his free time at the centre. "Since each student has a maximum time limit of two hours a day on the computers, and a lot of people use the computers, more computers would be helpful," the 19-year-old student said.

Abdullah noted that when the

centre first opened, 60 per cent of the computer users were under 15 years old; now, the majority of the users are older. Daily statistics are compiled to classify the social strata, age and sex of the computer users, as well as the times when the computers are most heavily used, he said. The statistics have indicated that most of the users are middle-class male students. Females account for only ten per cent of the users.

To further help and encourage the students, lists of computer books and periodicals, dates and times of computer lectures and useful information on programmes and computers are posted on the centre's bulletin board.

The children's library, separate from the regular library, has grown with donations of books, magazines and educational toys. But expansion efforts have focused mainly on the regular library.

According to Abdullah, the regular library holds over 27,000 Arabic and English books, nearly half of which have been donated. "Over 80 per cent are science books, while most of the rest concentrate on human sciences and interdisciplinary subjects," he said.

The library includes 1,200 periodicals, 400 in Arabic. The discontinuation of one periodical was supported by AHSL, which was noted by a member of the library: "Afaq Ilimiyah" (scientific horizons) is an excellent Arab publication; it is too bad that AHSL does not subscribe to

it any longer. I would like to see it on the shelves again," said the member, who preferred not to be named.

Head Assistant of the Library Osama Jbara said that, in general, books are taken care of and users abide by the two-week limit on book loans. There is a ratio of three books lost to every 1,000, which is considered low compared to Western countries which have a rate of five per cent lost for every 1,000 books, according to Abdullah.

Jbara, who has been working in the library since it opened, noted that the number of people who come to the library increases each day, and that on Thursdays, there is no place to sit. The long operating hours of the library accommodates most people. "I don't agree with the common notion that people in Jordan do not read. Open libraries in a lot of places, and then decide whether or not the people here read," Jbara said.

Finances for all AHSL activities come from the two per cent of the Arab Bank's profits set aside specifically for this purpose, Abdullah said. "This year JD 500,000 has gone to AHSL," he said.

The foundation was officially established in 1978 in memory of the late Abdul Hamid Shoman, founder of the Arab Bank. According to Abdullah, "it's a private company for public interest... a private effort for the advancement of science in the Arab World."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Former minister passes away

AMMAN (J.T.) — Former minister of social affairs and labour Nisfat Kamal has passed away, according to an announcement by the prime minister's office Saturday. Kamal, who died at the age of 73, had served in the Wasfi Tal's government between 1965 and 1967. He died at his home from heart attack that resulted in paralysis.

### Dentists delegation returns

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's delegation to the Higher Council of the Arab Dentists Union (ADU) meeting recently concluded in Damascus has returned to Amman. Upon his return, delegation leader Walid Maraga said that a number of resolutions were passed in support of the Palestinian people in their struggle for freedom and for Iraq for its continuing efforts to fend off Iranian aggression. Maraga said that the ADU council called on dentists in all Arab states to assist Palestinian dentists in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

### CBJ team leaves for Iraq today

AMMAN (Petra) — Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Hussein Al Qasem leaves for Baghdad today at the head of a CBJ delegation on several-day visit to Iraq. Qasem said that the purpose of the visit is to consult with officials at the Iraqi central bank, within the framework of bilateral cooperation.

## Analysts see uprising as new phase in Palestinian struggle

(Continued from page 1)  
communication are being invented. For example, wireless communications were found at the Balata refugee camp near Nablus, and women are playing a larger role in this uprising," he said. Using the potential of the entire population will make it difficult for the Israelis to put down the uprising: "The uprising showed that the occupied territories are not easy to swallow, and even if the Israelis put down this uprising they will not uproot Palestinian nationalism nor quell future uprisings," Masarweb said.

### Effects on Israeli scene

Abdul Rahman expects this factor to have an influence on the Israeli political scene. "I think there will be changes in the Labour and Likud platforms during the next Israeli elections, if the Arab World and the international community back the continuation of the uprising through moral and financial support to the inhabitants of the occupied territories, and if they press the U.S. to urge Israel to attend the international conference," he said.

There has been worldwide public support and sympathy for the Palestinians, even in the U.S.; no other occurrence in the Middle East since 1948 has received as much attention as the present uprising, said Abu Jaber who was also the director of the University of Jordan's Strategic Studies Centre.

Despite Zionist efforts to restore the shattered image of Israel, the world press has shown the 'mighty' Israeli army, considered to be the best in the Middle East, "chasing teenagers in the old streets of Palestine," Masarweb said.

"This is a kind of humiliation for the Israeli army," he said, adding that it was the first time that the army had failed in its job as a policeman, "and if you cannot fulfill your responsibility, then you have been defeated."

What has been happening in the occupied territories is bound to effect the next elections in Israel. "The Palestinian question will be the dominant issue," said Abu Jaber.

Abdul Rahman said that the "purity" and "moral basis" of Israel were at risk, and for the "pragmatic reason of saving Israel from its own will," the Israeli Labour party will strongly advocate a political solution to the Palestinian problem on its platform.

To the Labour party, if the Israelis continue their oppression of 1.5 million Palestinians and the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, they (Labour) feel they will ultimately give in to an undemocratic, Nazi, fascist and discriminatory culture."

If Foreign Minister Shimon Peres calls for the end of occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan Heights and makes it his party's platform, Abu Jaber says, Peres will have a possibility of winning the elections and working for a settlement of the conflict.

However, Labour's call for a territorial solution and for "Palestinian self-rule" within a Camp David-like formula is too far from Arab, Palestinian and international peace proposals. "Labour wants a 'special' international conference, one without jurisdiction or power. Labour wants an international umbrella to

## Dakhqaan inspects dam designs

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakhqaan Saturday inspected designs for Al Wahdeh Dam to be built near the Syrian-Jordanian border, and for smaller dams for storing rain water in the Jordan Valley region.

The designs are being prepared by the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), whose engineers and senior officials briefed the minister on the projects.

Reservoirs behind existing dams are reported to be half full

of water as a result of winter rains, according to a report in the Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday.

The report said that by Friday a total of 50.2 million cubic metres were stored in these dams, out of a total storage capacity of 111.6 million cubic metres.

The water behind the dams is used mainly for irrigation in the Jordan Valley during the dry season. JVA sources said that the present storage was good, considering that the winter season is far from over.

## Lufthansa's new station chief welcomed

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lufthansa, the West German airline, has appointed J. Albrecht as its new station manager at the Queen Alia International Airport.

M.G. Meierhofer, the airline's director for the Middle East, introduced Albrecht to airline officers and agents in the country during a reception held Thursday at the Amra Hotel.

Lufthansa manager in Jordan Karim Jouri, who presented Albrecht to leading airline representatives in Amman, said the

airline has increased passenger traffic to and from Amman since introducing Airbus airliners on the route.

Jouri said that a Lufthansa regional meeting scheduled for Feb. 15 in Cairo would discuss ways to increase the airline's regional market.

The reception was attended by several diplomats, including West German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Bartels, airline agents and members of the German community in Jordan.

### 'South African model'

Shamir may continue advocating what Abdul Rahman calls the "South African model," whereby Likud insists on not giving up an inch of land they occupied in 1967. "No concessions, no peace for land," Abdul Rahman summed Likud policy vis-a-vis occupied Arab territories. "While Likud is against the annihilation and transfer of Palestinians, it is also against granting Palestinians state citizenship in fear of ruining the 'purity' of the Jewish state. "Denying Palestinian rights, treating them like third class citizens and using them for cheap labour is the same discriminatory policy whites use against blacks in South Africa. Here it is whites against whites."

"The South African model is one of the strongest policies being implemented in practice in Israel and the occupied Arab lands. This policy may continue, because it too has the necessary political force behind it."

If Likud decides to continue its South African model and justify the measures used against the Palestinians by saying that violence and force is the only language that Palestinians understand, Abu Jaber predicts that Likud may win the elections since most of the Israeli voters are young. Sahra (born in Palestine) or of Oriental backgrounds. "They are more violent and radical, and will probably support Likud because of their belief in 'iron-fist' policies," said Abu Jaber.

However, Masarweb believes that the uprising has brought Shamir to his senses. "For the first time, this uprising acted as an eye opener to many Israelis. Those who thought that the Arabs have become submissive have realised that the Arabs are oppressed and that violence will breed more violence," he said. Shamir and his Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a leading Labour hawk, have changed their tone as the uprising progressed saying that their evaluation was wrong and that they were facing a prolonged uprising. Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat infuriated his Likud colleagues when he urged Israel to negotiate the return of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights.

"It is difficult to predict the outcome of the elections. Over the years the Israeli polls have shown that there is an equilibrium between Labour and Likud, but I have a feeling it will be tilted in favour of the Likud," Abdul Rahman said.

The minority parties which advocate annihilation and the transfer of the Palestinian population will have only small segments of the Israeli population supporting them, because these two options are difficult to implement for religious, security and purity reasons," he said.

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## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Disinflation quantified, but causes unknown

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

ACCORDING to the cost of living index, compiled and published monthly by the Department of Statistics, the Jordanian market experienced disinflation, and the purchasing power of the dinar rose for the first year on record. The cost of living index for December 1987 dropped to 130.3 from 132.7 in the same month of 1986, down 1.8 per cent. The monthly average for 1987 was 129.8 against 130.0 in 1986, down 0.2 per cent (1980=100).

We still unpleasantly remember the high inflation of the seventies and early eighties. We definitely appreciate the stability in the value of the dinar. Yet, economists normally think that the ideal situation for a healthy economy is a steady rise of prices at 2 to 3 per cent a year. In this respect, less is not necessarily better.

Inflation is of course detrimental to creditors, depositors, salaried employees, workers and landlords. Disinflation on the other hand is harmful to debtors, borrowers, and those engaged in industry and agriculture.

But why did disinflation take place despite an imported inflation of 3 to 4.5 per cent, a 12 per cent rise in the exchange rates of most foreign currencies (except the dollar) in relation to the dinar and the higher tariff and non-tariff protection measures which must have pushed the prices up.

The imported contents of aggregate supply of goods and services is around 50 per cent, as the national accounts suggest. Therefore, change in currency exchange rates, and protection measures must have caused the prices of foreign imports to rise by 15 per cent. Consequently, the average inflation rate in Jordan should have been 7.5 per cent had the prices of local goods and services remained constant.

Since overall inflation during 1987 was a negative 0.2 per cent, the domestic elements of services must have dropped on average by 15.4 per cent during 1987.

This means that the current moderate disinflation did not only hurt borrowers who are required to pay a real interest rate of 10.5 per cent annually, the highest in the world, it also hurt producers, especially those who make their living by producing and selling products and personal and professional services or let houses and offices.

So what triggered disinflation?

The fiscal policy adopted by the Ministry of Finance could not be responsible. Public expenditure in the budget did not contract and financing by deficit and through borrowing is known to cause inflation not the other way around.

Monetary policy adopted by the Central Bank also could not be held responsible for causing disinflation. The Bank helped stabilize the value of the dinar in dollar terms, which in turn resulted in raising the exchange rate of most other currencies. The Bank also pursued a rather expansionary policy. It furnished commercial banks with additional liquidity and encouraged them to extend more credit to all sectors.

The trade and industrial policy adopted by the Ministry of Industry and Trade could not be held responsible for disinflation either. More protection of local production, prohibition of imports and imposition of excise on local industry should raise the prices not otherwise.

In other words disinflation in Jordan did not happen because of fiscal, monetary, trade or industrial policies but despite them all. The easiest way out of this riddle is to doubt the official statistics. But we have no reason to support such notion. The methodology was not altered, and the department has no incentive, political or otherwise, to claim unfounded disinflation.

Perhaps the protracted domestic economic recession is responsible. The adjustment of behaviour by the private sector to the new circumstances and the readiness of families to reduce their living standards as a precaution against uncertainty could also have a role.

## Why take a chance?

THE npsot of United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's report to the U.N. Security Council was his call for the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East to be attended by all concerned parties. This call, which came in the wake of the week-long fact-finding visit to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip by U.N. Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding, coincided with the call by the Soviet Union for a meeting of the Security Council at foreign minister level, to discuss how to accelerate the convening of the international peace conference. The European Community is also supportive of such a conference; and so is practically every regional group in the world, including the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organisation of Islamic Conference countries. And last but not least, all the Arab parties concerned advocate the conference idea.

The odd men out are Israel and the United States. The U.S. may be on the verge of supporting the proposed conference, especially in the wake of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. The projected official trip to Washington by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir should be seen in this light, as the conference idea appears to be gaining support, despite Shamir's open rejection of it. With Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres ostensibly solidly behind the idea, and threatening to make it the primary issue in the anticipated national elections in Israel, the international community, so it seems, can count on "half of Israel," to back the conference.

We now look to the U.N. Security Council to prod such a conference, especially in the wake of the report of Mr. Perez de Cuellar, provided it does not repeat its performance on the Gulf situation. The optimism generated by the unanimous adoption of Resolution 598 dissipated quickly, giving rise to speculation that that resolution was put on the backburner. The patience of the Palestinian people living under occupation has been stretched to the limit, and it is clear that the situation in the West Bank and Gaza cannot withstand more procrastination.

Much water has to pass under the bridge of the proposed conference before a durable and just resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict materialises. And if the process does not begin soon, one can be sure that a bloody uprising in the occupied territories is in the offing. And the next round could engulf the whole region. Why take the chance, when there is a mechanism to launch Arab-Israeli peace negotiations?

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Ra'i: Double talk

ARIEL Sharon, an extremist Israeli cabinet minister, has rejected outright Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's initiative for ending the dangerous situation in the occupied Arab territories. He did so without even learning of the full text of the Egyptian president's initiative; and the Israeli Radio was careful to broadcast his statement, thus reversing an earlier government statement that Israel was ready to enter negotiations on the question. The official Israeli comment and Sharon's statement are contradictory, because whereas Tel Aviv offers to negotiate to show that it really seeks peace, Sharon's statement presents the situation as an internal security problem which should be handled by the Israeli government alone. In fact, both statements are meant to deceive world public opinion because neither Sharon nor his prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, accepts the idea of an international conference to solve the issue, and both are determined to put down by force the current uprising in the occupied Arab lands. If Israel wants peace, it should first accept the idea of the proposed international conference which would lead to an Israeli withdrawal from Arab territory and result in the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights in their own homeland. Any thing short of that remains mere propaganda designed for deceiving world public opinion and stalling for time. The Palestinians and the Arab people at large have experienced all Israeli means of deception and empty words about a settlement and peace; and they realise that Sharon's rejection of Mubarak's initiative, represents Israel's official stand; and therefore, the struggle is bound to continue until justice is done.

### Al Dustour: Much depends on the Arabs

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's report to the Security Council came as a fruit of his own endeavours and the efforts and the sacrifices of the Arab people under Israeli rule. The uprising and Israel's repressive measures against the protesters have prompted de Cuellar and the world public opinion to make moves for bringing justice to the Palestinians and ending the violence in their homeland. De Cuellar's report which calls for action to be taken to defuse the dangerous situation, was echoed by a call on the part of the Soviet Union which proposed that the Security Council hold a session to discuss the convening of an international conference on the Middle East. Action to end the unstable situation in the region is also represented in a visit by West Germany's foreign minister to the occupied Palestinian land today. All these efforts and the German minister's visit follow closely the violent events in the occupied territory and Israel's measures and inhuman practices against the Palestinian people. It remains to be said that the Arab League, which holds a meeting at the foreign ministers level today, should take prompt and effective action, and embark on positive steps to persuade Washington of the need for holding an international conference so that a just solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict can be found. Much depends on the Arabs themselves if they are determined to find a just solution for the Palestine problem.

### Sawt Al Shaab: Uprising attracts world attention

IT is clear that the uprising in the occupied Arab territories has aroused the feelings of people around the world and prompted world-wide condemnation of Israel's atrocities. It is clear from the recent developments in the United Nations that the world community has become increasingly concerned over the Palestinian problem and is serious in finding means for ending the dangerous situation and restoring peace in the Middle East region. U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's report to the Security Council based on a tour in the region by his envoy Marrack Goulding diagnosed the situation in the region, and concluded that the problem could only be solved through an international peace conference to be held under U.N. auspices. De Cuellar's report echoed earlier calls by King Hussein on the need for a speedy solution for the problem of the Palestinian people through an international conference. The King in his recent meetings with Middle East visitors and throughout his contacts world-wide has underlined this view and called for permanent peace.

## Jordan backs Soviet call on U.N.

(Continued from page 1)

the heart of Soviet concerns," he said. "We still adhere to our position calling for an end to the hostilities under the auspices of the United Nations and the setting up of an international neutral force to protect commercial shipping in the area."

### Review of U.N. report

The Security Council next week will again consider the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, following a U.N. report that said a negotiated end to the Arab-Israeli conflict was the best way to protect Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Sir Crispin Tickell of Britain, the council president, has summoned members to informal consultations Monday. It was uncertain when public debate might begin, but some sources said this could follow almost immediately. The United States has objected to repeated U.N. meetings on the crisis, preferring to make its views known directly to Israel. American officials have also voiced concern about Israel's methods for dealing with Palestinian protesters.

Under-secretary General Marrack Goulding, who made a nine-day visit to the area and supplied basic material for the U.N. report, said he was disturbed that Israel resorted to beating Palestinians (See page 2).

Perez de Cuellar urged the international community to make a concerted effort to persuade Israel to accept the Fourth Geneva

Convention on the treatment of civilians in wartime.

Perez de Cuellar also said Israel should be persuaded "to correct its practices in order to comply fully with that convention."

But the underlying problem could only be resolved through a political settlement that responded both to the Palestinians' refusal to accept a future under Israeli occupation and to Israel's determination to ensure its people's security and well being, the secretary general said.

To that end, he said a settlement should be negotiated through an international conference under U.N. auspices, with the participation of all the parties concerned.

Israeli officials have rejected the U.N. report as an attempt to force Israel into the called-for international peace conference.

"The report is one-sided and extreme," Israel's U.N. Ambassador Binyamin Netanyahu contended.

"The most... dangerous (significance) is that the report is laying the groundwork for the Security Council to discuss an international peace conference," he said in an interview with Israel Television.

Israel's shaky coalition government is split over the peace conference proposal, with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc rejecting the idea.

An Israeli foreign ministry spokesman said Israel would formally reply to the United Nations after officials had considered the report.

## French minister due here Wednesday

(Continued from page 1)

condition of anonymity. Jordan will be Balladur's final leg of a four-country tour of the region which will also take him to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait. He arrived in Saudi Arabia Friday.

His talks in the Gulf states were expected to focus on the Iran-Iraq war and the situation in the region, according to the source.

France maintains a substantial naval task force in the troubled Gulf waters and recently indicated its warships would not only protect French vessels but also non-French merchant ships against Iranian attacks.

While in Amman, Balladur, who is also chief political advisor to Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, will also hold talks with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Minister of Finance

Hanna Odeh, the source said.

The two sides are expected to review bilateral relations and means of boosting trade and economic cooperation. The source, however, ruled out prospects of any Franco-Jordanian trade agreements signed during the visit.

France has always enjoyed a large trade surplus with Jordan, but Amman Chamber of Commerce statistics indicate a narrowing of the trade gap over the past three years.

Jordan's exports to France increased from JD 2,984,300 in 1984 up to JD 7,070,000 in 1986. Imports fell from JD 48,369,900 to JD 33,175,400 in the same period.

In general, French exports to Arab states have hit record lows as a result of low oil prices and a weak dollar, and reports reaching here from Paris said Balladur's talks in the Gulf states would also centre on means of boosting trade.

## Nazareth stages massive rally

(Continued from page 1)

The group held its own rally later Saturday in Tel Aviv, which was termed the largest ever Israeli protest against the occupation.

In the city's central Malchei Yisrael square, at least 20,000 Israeli leftists carried torch lights and held banners saying: "Two states for two peoples" and "give peace a chance." Strains of John Lennon's "Imagine" mixed with Israeli peace songs from loudspeakers overhead.

Addressing the crowd, group leader Avshalom Vilan recalled how 10 years earlier, the same group held its first rally, calling on Israel to accept the initiative of the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat that led to peace between the countries.

"Are we to become South Africa, or the Soviet Union in Afghanistan?" Vilan asked. "Shamir, where are you heading?"

The Palestine Press Service reported that major protests broke out in the Al Amari refugee camp near Ramallah Saturday, and 15 Palestinians were injured by rubber bullets or beatings. The agency said three Arabs were wounded in the town of Halhoul near Hebron, one of them with a bullet wound in the head.

Meanwhile, the Israeli mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek, sought Saturday to get the curfew in part

of Arab Jerusalem lifted.

Kollek visited religious leaders and residents in the Al Tur neighbourhood on the Mount of Olives, where a curfew was imposed by police Friday under a military order after stone-throwing protesters clashed with Israeli soldiers.

Kollek's spokeswoman told Reuters: "He objects to the curfew in the city... and is trying to get it lifted. But he has no control over it."

"He is speaking with residents to get them to have their young people identify with Palestinians in the territories in another form, not through throwing stones."

In other incidents Saturday, police fired tear-gas at residents at Shuafat refugee camp.

A Reuters photographer reported seeing police open fire with rubber bullets inside the old city of Jerusalem and then force their way into a building.

Druze leaders in the Golan Heights announced a general strike in solidarity with the Nazareth march and said they would collect food and clothing to send to Palestinians living in refugee camps, Israeli Radio said.

Merchants in Arab Jerusalem observed a full commercial strike, while leaflets distributed in the area called on Palestinian policemen working for the Israeli police department to resign.

## Indigenous leadership steers occupied territories' uprising

By Mary Sedor and Karin Laub

The Associated Press

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM** — Arab protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip have generated a new underground Palestinian leadership that has set aside factional disputes to coordinate and fuel large-scale anti-Israeli uprising.

It is the first sign of an indigenous Palestinian leadership in the occupied territories since 1980, when Israel outlawed the 16-member National Guidance Committee formed by Palestinians.

Israeli moderates have expressed hope the protests will produce new leaders who can play a role in establishing a dialogue between Arabs and Jews. But Israeli officials insist they will not talk to groups linked to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The protests began Dec. 8. Within days, Palestinians formed an underground steering committee that has extended its influence throughout the occupied territories. It issues directives that are carried out by scores of grassroots groups.

The committee, calling itself the "National Leadership for Accelerating the Uprising," consists of previously warring PLO factions and Islamic Jihad, a group of Muslim fundamentalists, according to Israeli officials and influential Arab figures. Islamic Jihad is not connected to groups of the same name in Lebanon and elsewhere.

"The committee has the power to ignite the uprising at any time," said Raji Sourani, a Gaza City lawyer close to the committee. "People are in a confrontational mood, and what has happened can happen again."

The committee's work is mainly coordination and planning, using a network of existing groups such as refugee camp committees, women's groups and professional associations to carry out the strategy it lays down.

A senior official in the Israeli occupation authorities in West Bank and Gaza said the scope and intensity of cooperation was unprecedented, but said claims of complete control were "wishful thinking."

"I agree there is some degree of organisation behind these



riots, but I don't believe the committee is all-powerful," said the official, on condition of anonymity.

Israeli leaders are divided over what caused the violence. Hardliners contend the protests were incited by PLO leaders abroad, while moderates say the protests were caused by the lack of a peace process and frustration that built up over 20 years of occupation.

The Israeli Defence Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, has called on Palestinians to use the protests as an opportunity to produce a new leadership not linked to the PLO and acceptable as a partner in negotiations with Israel.

"I think the Palestinian leadership system is in turmoil, and it's still too early to say who will come out on top," Rabin told Israeli Radio. "My impression is that we have buds of new leadership, may be more radical."

Palestinians say the new leaders who have emerged are solidly pro-PLO. "They will have to be taken into consideration in peace negotiations, along with the outside leadership of the PLO," said Jamel Massar, a political science professor at Birzeit University in the West Bank.

Sourani said the steering committee not only organises daily strikes and protests but also is developing long-term strategies on how to fight occupation.

"If you believe this uprising will overthrow the occupation, you are naive," said Sourani, a lawyer who represents Palestinians arrested on security offences. "Our confrontation

doesn't end after one month or one year."

Sourani said committee members had been successful in prolonging the uprising because they did not make unrealistic demands on Palestinian residents.

For example, he said, the committee has allowed food shops to open despite a commercial strike to enable Palestinians to replenish their dwindling food stocks.

Palestinian organisers also said the tactics and strategy of the uprising were being varied so as not to overburden any particular group.

"Until now, people are respecting the instructions, and we want to retain that," Sourani said.

The committee operates in secret, and Palestinians refuse to divulge who belongs to it. Members of the old National Guidance Committee let their names be known. The new committee, which the Jerusalem Post said has six to eight members, issues its orders through word of mouth and leaflets distributed in the territories.

Grass-roots organisers said they follow the broad direction of the instructions but have some leeway.

"What we read in the pamphlets is the outline of the kinds of actions. If they call for a strike in which no cars are allowed on the road, we adhere to that," said Rana Nashishibi, 26, a member of the Union of Palestinian Working Women's Committees.

"But we have the liberty to choose what other action we would take. It's up to us to trigger

the action," she said.

Nashishibi said her group on its own initiative staged protest marches in Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem and the West Bank city of Ramallah.

She said it also organised women in West Bank towns and villages to knit sweaters for the about 1,100 Palestinians detained in Israeli prisons as part of the Israeli crackdown.

The women's committee is one of hundreds of grass-roots groups such as trade unions and professional organisations formed with PLO approval in the mid-1970s in an effort to foster indigenous leadership.

At the same time, the National Guidance Committee was formed to deal with Israeli authorities on day-to-day problems of occupation.

Israel outlawed the group, saying it was involved in anti-Israeli activities and incited widespread demonstrations in 1980. Israel deported two of its leaders, deposed others from their jobs as mayors in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and placed others under town arrest.

"The Palestinian leadership in the past has been systematically decapitated," said Joseph Hiltmann, a Dutch-born lawyer in the Service of Man, an Arab-run human rights organisation.

Army officials denied the charge, saying they only targeted PLO activists hostile to Israel. "If we thought they were true leaders, we would be talking to them," said the senior military official.

Hiltmann said the Palestinian leadership emerging now consists of activists who have risen from the ranks of the grass-roots movements. "These people number in the hundreds. If they depart one, he can be replaced immediately," Hiltmann said.

The military official said "all these organisations have been operating in the territories for some time now. The new element is the intensity of cooperation and coordination. They are all pulling in the same direction."

The Jerusalem Post newspaper quoted an unidentified senior security official as saying the army knew the names of the committee members and would disband the group.

"We think this committee will meet the same fate as the National Guidance Committee," the official was quoted as saying.

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## Women toil, men enjoy the greater reward

By Ronald Farquhar  
Reuter.

GENEVA — It's a man's world. Whether in offices or factories or down on the farm, most women need, or choose, to go out to work.

And what they get is still almost always a raw deal, be they New York executives, computer girls in Europe or drudges in the fields of Latin America, Africa and Asia.

Women, goes the Maoist adage, "hold up half the sky."

They do it, say researchers at the Geneva-based International Labour Organisation (ILO), for about two-thirds what men get paid for holding up the other half.

That is a global average. In Western industrial nations, women's pay is now within 10 per cent of men's. But in Communist Eastern Europe, males earn 20 to 30 per cent more for the same job. In the Third World and Japan they can earn twice as much.

Officials and data at the ILO, a U.N. agency, were among sources tapped by Reuter correspondents for a global update on the condition of working women towards the close of the 1980s.

Not only did the survey confirm continued inequality of pay, but women are also more likely to get the sack than men.

Often, says the ILO, that is because they have traditionally done the sort of jobs that are most easily taken over by word-processors, facsimile machines and other new technology.

Or, it may simply be male chauvinism or the fact that women take time off to have babies.

China, following Mao, has a law that all its women should work. There is no such thing there as "Occupation: Housewife."

But, reports the All China Federation of Trade Unions, when recent economic reforms gave managers the power to fire workers in order to boost profit, women were the first to go.

Neither in China, where newspapers say that educated women are arbitrarily refused jobs, nor in the Soviet Union, is ideological stress on equality always translated into practice.

Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of *glasnost* (openness) has brought letters to Pravda by women saying they are tired of "emancipation" and would sooner not work if they could afford it.

The Soviet constitution guarantees equal work prospects, but men tend to get the better jobs. On Moscow building sites, most labourers are women. Gangs of women shovel snow from the street. Soviet women do the heavy lifting in shops and warehouses.

Their U.S. sisters may be more status conscious, but they say men still keep them out of top jobs in American business.

"To senior management, who are almost without exception over 50, female managers are a new breed: 'Aggressive, tenacious, risk-taking — a breed unlike their wives — somewhat intimidating, vaguely disconcerting and strange,'" said Felice Schwartz, founder of Catalyst.

Catalyst, a New York organisation formed to help women's careers, says more than one in three female U.S. executives feels that just being a woman remains the biggest obstacle.

Still, Catalyst also finds that some 45 per cent of American firms have women on the board, up from 18 per cent a decade ago.

And Beatrice Fitzpatrick, president of the American Women's Economic Development Corporation, which helps women start their own businesses, says three times more women are doing that than men.

She said: "By the year 2,000 half of all small businesses will be owned by women, the government is predicting." And Felice Schwartz at Catalyst says half U.S. corporate managers will soon be women — "We have passed the point of no return."

Not so in Japan. "No fundamental change has taken place," said sociologist Yoriko Meguro at Sophia University — despite a 1986 equal opportunity law.

Japan lays most stress on women's role in the home.

"Women take care of the family and bring up children, letting men concentrate completely on work to the extent that they become workaholics," said gov-

ernment adviser Mariko Bando.

Elsewhere, where the norm is for a woman to have a job and be a mother, too, progress making that easier has been slow.

The ILO said a need for day nurseries is far from being met worldwide. Often, where laws say a firm must open a crèche if it hires a specific number of women, it keeps female hirings down.

Particularly in the West, mothers opt for part-time jobs. But part-time pay and terms are often inferior, says the ILO.

Chinese men tend to expect their wives to come home to do the housework. The Soviet press says men do not do enough of it.

Gorbachev said in June more must be done to help working women fulfil "their inherent functions" of mother and wife.

Soviet women get a small allowance for staying at home until a child is 18 months old. There are complaints in some cities about kindergarten space for older children. Granny often helps.

In the Third World, meanwhile, poverty bears hard on women.

In India's villages, home of 80 per cent of its 780 million people, girls of seven or eight begin a life of unremitting, 18 hours a day toil. They do everything except plough — a male preserve.

"They are malnourished, they are social inferiors, they are illiterate," said a senior government official. "They do not see anything outside their own village. Economic pressures are too much for them to think of anything else."

Average life expectancy of Indian women at 51 is a year less than that for men. In the West, women normally live longer.

In Indian cities, women are pushed into unskilled, low-paid work, according to a 1985 government study.

The ILO says roughly two-thirds of all Third World women workers are engaged in agriculture and that their plight has deteriorated because of increasing landlessness — particularly in Latin America — and migration of the men to work in cities.

Those Third World women who also leave the land are apt to end up in low-paid and precarious

jobs, the ILO's 1987 world labour report adds. Many young women in Asia work up to 60 hours a week making cheap electronic goods.

According to the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), nearly three-quarters of African women work on the land. But 90 per cent did so a quarter of a century ago. Encroaching desert and mechanisation wrought the change.

Only about seven per cent of working African women have, however, found jobs in industry, probably because illiteracy is so high. Less than a third of African women can read and write.

By the century's end, says the ECA, 45 per cent of Africans will live in cities. Lack of education will force women into informal work as servants and petty traders — and prostitution.

Wholly different attitudes to women and work prevail in strict Islamic societies such as Saudi Arabia.

It segregates women workers. Only a few jobs, such as teaching and nursing, were open to them until recently.

But some Saudi women now run their own boutiques. Banks have "ladies only" branches with female tellers. The Saudi cable company plans an electronics factory staffed only by women who will communicate with men by television.

Iran's Islamic revolution has had no drastic impact on Iranian working women who still provide most farm labour and fill blue collar jobs and civil service posts.

But female secretaries are not allowed nor, according to the prevailing interpretation of Islam, may women be judges.

The Islamic rulers say a woman is first and foremost a mother but that she may also acquire skills and work — indeed, her contribution is needed as teacher, nurse or doctor. Devout Muslim women do not like to be examined by male physicians.

A popular legal change since the revolution is the option for women civil servants to work part-time for two years after a birth. And the revolution banned men from some jobs, like hairdressing, opening new prospects for women.



## While eastern U.S. sleeps, earthquake threat increases

By Donald Smith  
National Geographic

WASHINGTON — The monsters underground in the West have brothers.

Everyone knows about the rifts in the Earth's crust beneath the West Coast, such as California's infamous San Andreas fault. Sometime in the next few decades, one of them might shift violently, causing an earthquake that would turn the ground into mud pudding, break highways, demolish houses and factories, and kill thousands of people.

Californians talk matter-of-factly about waiting for the Big One. They're used to the idea.

What isn't as widely understood is that Californians and other Westerners have no exclusive franchise on the geological anomalies that cause earthquakes. Other fault demons sleep fitfully beneath broad expanses of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains. Because these brawny siblings aren't as celebrated as their Western kin, they may be even more dangerous.

"You expect very few big earthquakes in a century in the eastern United States," says Otto Nuttli, a St. Louis University geophysics professor, explaining why people in the East don't think much about the possibility that they might get caught in a quake. "But when they do happen, they're awesome."

No one today was alive during the last Big One east of the Rockies. It happened 176 years ago in a then sparsely populated region of southeastern Missouri. The area is situated over an ancient subterranean fracture called the New Madrid fault zone — the site of some mild but ominous tremors in the summer of 1987.

The series of massive shocks that occurred around New Madrid, Mo., in 1811-12 altered the flow of the Mississippi River and rattled windows as far away as Quebec City, Canada. In Washington, the floor moved under President John Quincy Adams's feet.

Experts say the same magni-

tude of quake in today's urban America would wreak far wider destruction. "If we ever repeat earthquakes the size of the 1811 and 1812 ones, I expect they would do damage to tall structures as far away as 500 miles," Nuttli says.

Long-distance damage is one of the ways Eastern earthquakes differ from Western ones. Scientists know that seismic waves in the East travel farther and pack more destructive punches, but they're not sure why.

One explanation is that Eastern geology is older and simpler, with fewer faults in the ground to slow the travel of quake waves. Another theory concerns minute quantities of water in the earth that may inhibit the waves; Eastern rocks are drier.

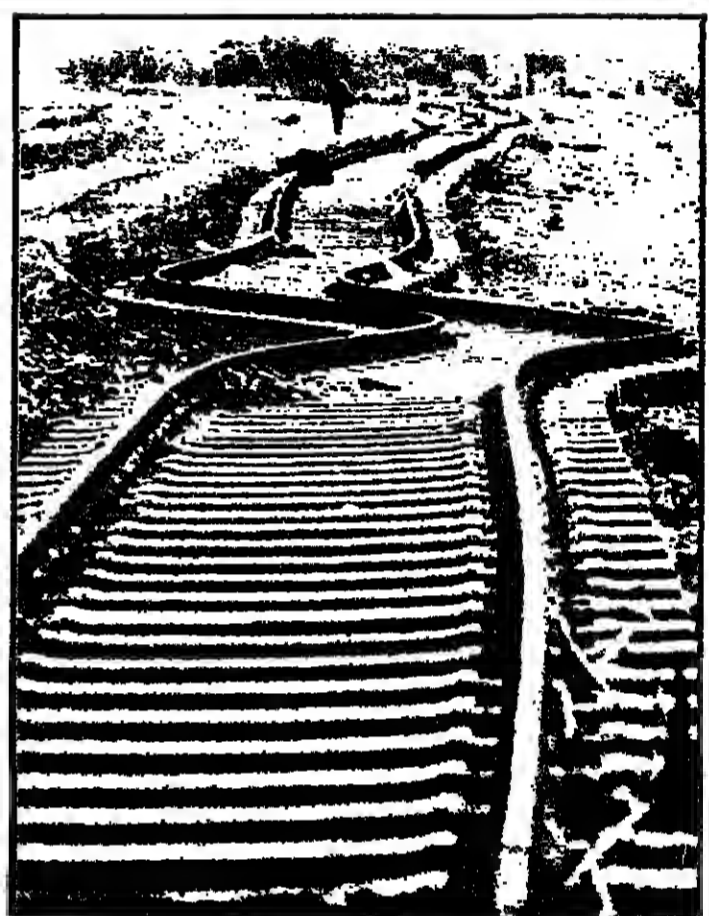
The potential for extensive destruction in urban areas has received increasing attention lately. The Oct. 1, 1987 tremor in Whittier, Calif., provided fresh evidence of the horrors in store for urban populations hit by quakes. The Whittier quake, measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale, was the worst to hit southern California in 16 years. It killed seven people and injured more than 100. More than 10,000 buildings were damaged, accounting for an estimated \$177 million in losses.

If the same quake had hit an Eastern city, experts agree, the damage would have been far worse because of the East's geology. Moreover, because of the infrequency of major earthquakes, Easterners generally are less prepared than Westerners.

"Most places in the East don't require seismic hazard protection in their building codes," says David Perkins, a geophysicist at the National Earthquake Centre in Boulder, Colo.

But Perkins and other federal officials report a surge of interest in earthquake protection of structures east of the Rockies, partly as a result of their encouragement.

A state legislator in South Carolina recently launched a campaign to require compliance with regional building codes.



Tracks twisted by a 1985 Mexican earthquake attest the potential for destruction in U.S. urban areas. Because large earthquakes are so rare east of the Rockies, there's little interest in preparedness. Yet, possibly because of ground structure, quakes can cause more damage in the East than in the West.

Compliance is now voluntary. "Lately we've been talking to people who are actually involved in taking various kinds of information and turning it into construction requirements," says Perkins. "They want to know something about the maximum size earthquake they can expect."

But information about risk still isn't widely disseminated — or heeded. "There's no constituency for earthquake preparation," says Robert Ketter, director of the National Centre for Earthquake Engineering Research at the State University of New York, Buffalo. "Local government officials pay lip service to it, but then don't make the public-policy decisions to put in an effective disaster plan, or a mitigation plan, or anything else."

Some 500 scientists, government officials, and others will meet in New York City this February to discuss earthquake risk in the northeastern United States. The conference will be sponsored by Ketter's centre and the city's Academy of Science.

"We don't want to create a horror story," Ketter says. "That's the main problem: Once you get beyond a certain stage (of disaster forecasting), you turn people off, even though the forecast may be very realistic. One of the things they did in California was to talk about a \$60 billion loss and 20,000 deaths due to a major earthquake in Los Angeles. People can't think in those terms. So we have to convince people that there's a serious problem, but not cause them to say, 'Well, I can't do anything about it.'"

Earthquake experts talk in terms of when, not if. "The event (in the East) is rare in comparison with California and Alaska," says Walter Hays of the U.S. Geological Survey. "But it will happen."

## U.S. cigarette companies benefit from hot export markets

By Maggie McNeil  
Reuter.

WASHINGTON — The cigarettes that health-conscious Americans are no longer smoking are now hit up by growing numbers of nicotine lovers in Japan and other countries where smokers have acquired a taste for American-blend cigarettes.

The U.S. cigarette industry, whose growth has been hurt by a steady decline in American smoking, was boosted by a huge gain in foreign markets, including Taiwan, Greece and South Africa, in the past year.

This was triggered largely by successful U.S. government efforts to ease foreign restrictions on the imports of U.S. cigarettes.

American cigarette exports in 1987 have been preliminarily estimated at record-breaking levels of around 100 billion cigarettes worth \$2 billion, making the United States the world's largest exporter of the controversial product, said tobacco analysts at the U.S. agriculture department.

Japanese consumers especially are smoking American cigarettes at an increasingly rapid pace.

Since the removal last April of trade restrictions on U.S. cigarettes, Japanese imports of U.S. brands have soared to almost 28 billion as of the end of

last October, nearly four times the amount shipped to Japan during the same period the previous year.

That makes Japan the No. 1 buyer of U.S. cigarettes, and tobacco companies are overjoyed.

"We are very pleased with how the Japanese market has grown," said Richard Badler, manager of communications for the international division of Philip Morris, the largest cigarette company in the United States.

Japanese consumers smoke 300 billion cigarettes per year.

With the suspension of import quotas and a corresponding drop in U.S. cigarette prices, American companies have captured 10 per cent of the second largest market in the non-Communist world since last spring.

Government analysts predict that the U.S. market share in Japan will grow to 20 per cent by 1992.

And the news is also good for American tobacco companies in other foreign markets.

U.S. cigarette shipments to Taiwan multiplied 34 times during the first nine months of last year, totalling 4.2 billion cigarettes. Again, an easing of trade restrictions enabled the U.S. tobacco industry to gain

almost 15 per cent of the Taiwanese market, up from its previous meagre share of one-half to one per cent.

Greek smokers, despite price increases in the past year of 10 to 25 per cent, are buying more American cigarettes.

South African purchases of American cigarettes rose to over 500 million in 1987, up from around 300 million the year before. Hong Kong users had bought over nine billion cigarettes by the end of last October, a jump of almost 30 per cent from 1986 levels.

Foreign markets are heating up at an opportune time for U.S. cigarettes since the surgeon general, the nation's top health official, issued his first ominous warning on the dangers of cigarette smoking back in January 1964.

Since hitting its peak of 640 billion cigarettes in 1981, U.S. cigarette consumption dropped to 584 billion last year. Annual per capita consumption by Americans of 18 and older is currently 3,274 cigarettes, the lowest since 1944, according to government statistics.

If the current declining trend continues, analysts estimate that smoking in the United States could drop by 25 per cent by the

year 2000.

The growing foreign preference for U.S. cigarettes such as Philip Morris's Marlboro brand, the best-selling cigarette in the world, is explained by a number of factors including new international trading rules and aggressive marketing by tobacco companies.

Also cited as a factor are the use of higher quality, more mild-tasting tobacco in the U.S. product and the new image of American cigarettes as a status symbol.

"It's a status thing to smoke American-type cigarettes in the Third World," said Steve Beasley, tobacco analyst with the Agriculture Department.

Beasley reported that on a recent trip to Africa, he observed people buying a package of Marlboros, smoking all the cigarettes, then keeping the pack but replacing it with locally-produced cigarettes.

American-blend cigarettes are catching on around the world as foreign smokers switch to the more mild-tasting brands, tobacco analysts and executives said.

"U.S. cigarettes are higher quality, milder cigarettes," said Verner Grice, analyst of tobacco consumption at the agricultural agency. "The American blend is a milder, more pleasing-tasting cigarette."

## Warrior camels wrestle in Turkey

By Fatih Saribas  
Reuter.

EPHESUS, Turkey — Foam at the mouth was the only sign of emotion shown by the two bull camels as they lumbered across the ancient stadium of Ephesus.

But when a mare on heat was paraded before them, the two veteran warriors fiercely joined battle, egged on by shouts, sticks, drumbeats and shrill reed pipes.

"When the camels see a female in mating season, they become wild," said Cahit Soke, the 35-year-old owner of camels known as Destroyer and Smiler 1 and Smiler 2.

The bizarre sport of camel-wrestling on Turkey's Aegean coast peaks with the Ephesus festival in January, a big local day out and a growing tourist attraction in the stadium where Greek athletes raced 2,000 years ago.

The high point of the camel-wrestling year chooses no overall winner, but fine Turkish carpets are awarded to the owners of both contestants in each of 38 duels.

"I have been raising camels for 10 years. My wife once asked me if I preferred her or the camels."

My answer was definitely the latter," Soke said.

Women watch the competition but keep away from the ancient stone terraces, where their menfolk carouse with beer, wine or the strong Turkish raki spirit.

Side bets fuel shouts of encouragement to camels with names like Bulldozer and Thunderbolt. Quiltmaker and Little Wolf, Black Lightning and Commando.

The technical jargon of the sport is obscure but a camel can win by forcing its opponent to the ground or chasing it out of the stadium, as happened twice this year.

"The camels begin wrestling when they are 10 years old and become good fighters in the 20s," Soke said.

Camels fight sideways from the right or the left, using necks, shoulders, or legs to pile on pressure. Camelmen crouch nearby to separate the beasts when a winner is clear.

The camel's hight saddle strapped over the humps — with bells and a plastic poster advertising the camel's name — all give the sport a colourful atmosphere.

At night in nearby Selcuk, belly-dancers entertain tourists and camel owners at local restaurants, dancing on tables to raucous laughter and clapping.

Camel-owners tend to be amateur sportsmen and farmers, since the use of the hairy two-humped bactrians as beasts of burden has nearly died out in Turkey.

The Ephesus festival started in 1982, but camel wrestling in towns, villages and nomad encampments may date back to the arrival of the Turks in Asia Minor nine hundred years ago.

An obscure tradition is kept alive when the festival stops halfway through and the post of aga (lord) of the camel-wrestlers is auctioned off to the highest bidder.

Local farmer Hasan Kayali bought this year's post of aga for 1.25 million lira (\$1,000) and proudly strutted around the stadium, showing off in his silver-embossed sash of office with its attached silver pocket watch.

"Some of the wrestling was rigged this year," he shouted. "I will solve all this during my presidency..."

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# Tyson pummels Holmes, retains title

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (R) — Mike Tyson, who demolished Larry Holmes Friday night to retain his undisputed world heavyweight title, will next fight fellow-American Tony Tubbs in Tokyo on March 21, Tyson's manager has said.

Tyson himself, showing scant regard for Tubbs, a former World Boxing Association (WBA) champion, said after stopping Holmes in the fourth round: "I'm going to fight somebody in Tokyo."

A Japanese spokesman said the Tubbs fight would be in the Tokyo Dome, where he said he wanted to "show our Japanese hospitality."



Tyson... the reigning king

The fight is part of the seven-fight \$26.5 million package Tyson recently signed with an American cable television network.

Bill Cayton, Tyson's co-manager, said he would try to sign Michael Spinks for a fight against the champion. But if that did not happen, Tyson would fight Britain's Frank Bruno at Wembley Stadium in London.

## Tyson had edge

Tyson said he had an edge in his fight Friday because the former champion telegraphed his left in his losing bid to take Tyson's heavyweight crown.

"I always knew when the left was coming," said Tyson, who pounded the 38-year-old Holmes to the canvas twice in the fourth round before knocking him out with a tremendous right hand just six seconds before the round ended.

"I could see the punch. I'm elusive and hard to hit, but Holmes was telegraphing his punches," said Tyson who raised his record to 33-0, by stopping his 29th opponent within the distance.

It would have made little difference if Holmes had not telegraphed his left hand punch. It was as ancient as the telegraph. The few times Holmes, fighting for the first time in 21 months, scored with the left, it had the effect of a flyswatter.

Holmes' right was not any better. At one point in the third round — probably the former champion's best — Tyson merely shook his head and smiled after Holmes hit him with a right hand to the head, which the crowd thought had done some damage.

The only damage Holmes did on Friday night was to the reputation of the New Jersey Boxing Commission, which sanctioned the hopelessly mismatched fight. Many ringers felt Holmes, who was handed the worst beating of his 51-fight career, narrowly missed serious injury.

He was a shell of the fighter who ruled the heavyweight ranks for seven and 1/2 years and now has a career record of 48-3. Except for one brief stint of dancing on his toes in the fourth round, Holmes was flatfooted and awkward in his attempts to avoid Tyson's onslaught.

Tyson literally never took a step backward throughout the fight, unless the referee ordered it.

Holmes showed that he indeed is ready to spend a great deal more time with his grandchild. Tyson's role was nearly secondary to all of the attention paid to



Holmes... shattered dreams

Holmes' futility.

Tyson, who was paid about \$5 million for the fight, was his awesome self, again demonstrating his terribly disciplined desire to win.

"The people were really excited, but not me," said Tyson, whose next fight is expected to be against fellow-American Tony Tubbs in Tokyo on March 21.

Once Holmes was hurt, Tyson quickly executed him. "I had it all set up, but Larry tried being cute and punching the jab," said Tyson of Holmes' landing two lefts to the head at the beginning of the fourth round.

"The crowd was pumped up and I said 'now he's going to get it.' I refuse to be beaten," Tyson said.

Larry Holmes has had his time

but I want him to know his reign is over."

## Laughing loser

At the news conference after the fight, Holmes delivered what many who saw the fight thought was a bad joke.

Sugar Ray Leonard, here as a commentator for television, asked Holmes if he would retire.

Holmes, with a big grin, said: "Yes. This is it until someone offers me a lot of money and then I'll come out." He and Leonard laughed.

Holmes, who was paid \$3.1 million for the fight, added that "I've got nothing to be ashamed of. I'm going to laugh all the way to the Lafayette Trust Bank."

# Johnson continues winning ways in Ottawa

OTTAWA (AP) — Canadian Ben Johnson came up a few millimetres short in his try for a world 55-metre record after waiting 90 minutes for the track to be altered at the international indoor meet.

Event organizer Pat Reid went for the off-beat distance Friday night because it is one of the few world sprint marks not held by the Toronto star and the sprints were billed as the featured events of the meet.

But the tight confines of the civic centre allow only for a natural 50-metre sprint, so the runners and more than 9,000 fans had to wait while workmen removed one end of the oval track to make room for the 55-metre start.

"I was a little tired from the extended warmup," Johnson said after winning the final in 6.01 second — one-tenth off the mark held by Lee McRae of the United States. Johnson mark reduced his own time from the 6.04 set in 1985.

But it was a pair of women visitors who gave the crowd their world marks midway through the competition when Dora McIntyre of Romania ran away with the 1,500 in four minutes, 9.96 seconds and American Maryanne Torrellas won the mile race walk in 6:35.18.

Torrellas erased the 6:38.1 clocking set by Giuliana Salce of Italy in 1985 and Melinte lowered the 4:14.70 time set here last year by countrywoman Maricica Puica, who finished a distant second Friday.

Both world marks will carry the notation that they were set on a class track with more than 11

laps to the mile. The men's 400-metre race went to American Ian Morris in 50.61, the 800 to Dendonne Kwitana of Botswana in 1:54.07, the 1,500 to Mark Olsson of Canada in 3:46.9 and the 3,000 to Canadian Paul Williams in 8:09.7.

American Delissa Walton-Floyd won the women's 800-metre race in 2:05.89, American Steve Glander won the pole vault, with a mark of 17 feet-4 1/2 inches (5.29 m), and countryman Jim Howard leaped 7-6 (6.8 m) to win the high jump.

## NBA roundup

### Bullets outgun Warriors and Bulls trounce Suns

NEW YORK (AP) — Larry Bird scored 14 of his 27 points in the third quarter and the Boston Celtics beat Atlanta 124-106 to move ahead of the Hawks in the battle for the Eastern Conference's best record.

Bird's performance in Boston helped the Celtics turn a 64-54 halftime lead into a 95-75 advantage after three quarters. The victory was Boston's sixth straight at home by at least 16 points.

The Celtics, who have won their last seven NBA games and 17 of 19, improved their record to 28-10. The Hawks fell to 28-11.

Bullets 115, Warriors 91

Terry Catledge and Bernard King scored 20 points apiece and Manute Bol blocked 10 shots, leading the Washington Bullets to a 115-91 victory over the Golden State Warriors.

The Bullets, after an 8-19 start, are 6-2 under new coach Wes Unseld. The last five victories have come by an average margin

of 22.8 points.

In the game in Landover, Maryland, Catledge scored 10 points in the first period as Washington opened a 32-22 lead.

Bulls 118, Suns 108

Michael Jordan scored 42 points and combined with Rory Sparrow for Chicago's first 22 points of the third quarter as the Bulls broke open a close game and defeated the Phoenix Suns 118-108.

Chicago, leading by 15 points midway through the final quarter in Chicago, had the margin cut to 11-108 with 42 seconds left as Phoenix's Armon Gilliam and Eddie Johnson scored 10 points apiece down the stretch. Johnson led the Suns with 23 points.

Pacers 113, Nets 104

Vern Fleming's 26 points led four Indiana players with more than 20 as the Indiana Pacers kept the New Jersey Nets winless

on the road this season with a 113-104 victory.

In the game in Indianapolis, Chuck Person had 23 points and Steve Stipanovich and Reggie Miller 21 each as the Pacers snapped a three-game losing streak — their longest of the season — and dropped New Jersey to 0-15 on the road.

Mavericks 110, Clippers 87

Mark Aguirre scored 19 points and Roy Tarpley added 18 points and 19 rebounds, leading the Dallas Mavericks over the Los Angeles Clippers, 110-87.

The Midwest Division-leading Mavericks' 24-11 start is their best in club history. The Clippers, who have dropped 12 straight on the road, lost for the 15th time in their last 17 games.

In the game in Dallas, Dallas saw a 15-point second-quarter lead sliced to one with seven minutes left in the third quarter. But a Tarpley dunk triggered a 10-2 run.

Lakers 113, Knicks 112

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar scored 12 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter as the Los Angeles Lakers dealt the New York Knicks their 12th straight road defeat with a 113-112 victory marred by a bench-clearing brawl that re-

sulted in the ejection of three players.

Abdul-Jabbar kept the Knicks at bay with four consecutive sky hooks in a span of 2:41, and Mychal Thompson's three-point play with 51 seconds left made the score 110-103 with 51 seconds to play.

In the game in Inglewood, California, Rick Carlisle hit a 3-point shot at the buzzer to bring the Knicks within one.

Jazz 119, Spurs 106

Karl Malone had 26 points and 17 rebounds and the Utah Jazz outscored San Antonio 35-15 in the fourth quarter to beat the Spurs 119-106.

In the game in Salt Lake City, the Spurs, who got 24 points from Leon Wood and 22 from Frank Brickowski, led 89-84 early in the fourth quarter before the Jazz scored 14 consecutive points for a nine-point lead with 6:33 remaining.

Trail Blazers 126, Nuggets 106

Clyde Drexler scored 22 of his 39 points in the first half and Jerome Kersey finished with 24 points and 13 rebounds, leading Portland to a 126-106 victory over the Denver Nuggets.

In the game in Portland, Oregon, the score was tied 44-44 in the second quarter.



Michael Jordan in action

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Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

## Jordanian bank launches new scheme for expatriates

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Housing Bank is making arrangements to help Jordanian expatriates own homes in Jordan once they return here for permanent residence, according to Housing Bank Board Chairman Zuhair Khouri. Khouri said in a statement published in Al Ra'i newspaper that the new arrangements, currently being conducted in cooperation with Oman Bank in Dubai/United Arab Emirates (UAE), were in line with the Jordanian government's policy for providing facilities for Jordanian citizens and strengthening the expatriates' ties with their home country. Agreement has been tentatively reached for Oman Bank to finance 33 per cent of the total cost of housing for expatriates now employed in the UAE, while the Housing Bank will cover the balance of the cost, Khouri noted.

He said that beneficiaries would not be required to make a downpayment for the ownership of their housing units.

Khouri also disclosed that the Housing Bank will organise a housing exhibition in Dubai in the second half of next month to help market housing units and offer expatriates the chance to acquaint themselves with the types of units available in the Kingdom.

A number of real estate organisations operating in the country, he said, will be invited to take part in the exhibition.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Jordan's fruit exports decline

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's exports of fruit last month amounted to 7665 tonnes against 14315 tonnes in the same month of 1986, registering a decline by 6650 tonnes, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Ministry of Agriculture. The bulletin, which did not give a reason for the decline, said that lemons, oranges, and grapefruit were exported to Arab Gulf and European countries. The bulletin also noted that Jordan last month imported 1656 tonnes of apples against 1328 tonnes in December 1986 and that no amounts of chestnuts were imported during the past month, whereas Jordan's imports of this commodity amounted to 193 tonnes in December 1986.

### Jordan to attend IFAD meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the meetings of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) governing council which will open in Rome on Jan. 25. During the four-day meetings, participants will discuss international developments affecting the fund's activities, its achievements over the past 10 years. Also to be discussed are the fund's proposed 1988 budget and a special programme for African countries hit by drought and desertification and other topics. Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan, Jordan's governor at the IFAD governing council, and Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General Saleh Al Lawzi, the deputy governor, will represent Jordan at the meetings.

### Jordan to take part in industrial talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Planning will be taking part in a conference on industrial development in the Middle East to be held in London on Feb. 1. Planning Ministry Secretary-General Ziyad Fariz will represent Jordan at the five-day conference.

## AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Jan. 16, '88 and ending Wednesday, Jan. 20, '88. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
<b>Banking and financial institutions</b>					
Industrial Development Bank	850	1093	1.290	1.290	1.000
Petra Bank	11000	22683	2.080	2.060	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	2700	4285	1.590	1.600	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	420	521	1.250	1.240	1.000
Housing Bank	1050	1649	1.570	1.580	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	1325	2710	2.200	2.050	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	239	5959	24.500	25.000	5.000
Bank of Jordan	2613	42870	16.450	16.350	5.000
Arab Bank	630	76760	118.000	122.100	10.000
Jordan National Bank	2030	4943	2.460	2.450	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	2300	2724	1.140	1.190	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	12244	17180	1.940	1.900	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	59957	39387	0.640	0.670	1.000
National Financial Investments	5400	8103	1.500	1.510	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	20238	15421	0.740	0.760	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2.000
Al Mashrek Exchange	200	2905	14.100	14.500	10.000
<b>Insurance and reinsurance</b>					
Jordan French Insurance	8150	52472	7.000	6.400	1.000
REPCO Life Insurance	1226	1266	1.020	1.030	1.000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	100	120	1.150	1.200	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	100	95	0.920	0.950	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	223	285	1.430	1.280	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Universal Insurance	4550	3454	0.810	0.770	1.000
General Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Al-Tadris Insurance	23188	20451	0.810	0.910	1.000
National Abhiya Insurance	3700	4440	1.350	1.200	1.000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
<b>Services and industries</b>					
General Investments	1000	1350	1.350	1.350	1.000
Imma for Investment and Financial Facilities	400	264	0.650	0.660	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	46859	21576	0.460	0.470	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	200	86	0.440	0.430	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	19556	6721	0.320	0.350	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	19150	2026	0.610	0.610	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeerco	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	3171	4636	1.450	1.470	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	100	95	1.010	0.950	1.000
Arab International Hotels	—	—	—	—	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	250	200	0.830	0.800	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	50	175	3.850	3.500	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	84460	34047	0.400	0.420	1.000
Jordan Dairy	4635	4355	0.950	0.940	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	5203	10730	2.070	2.050	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	556997	749301	1.250	1.430	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	4250	10550	2.500	2.500	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intal)	1837	2432	1.280	1.330	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	2250	10913	4.850	4.850	1.000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	1000	500	1.000	1.000	1.000
Aladkin Industries	198171	250570	1.220	1.290	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	129550	244457	1.850	1.850	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	1400	1433	1.020	1.040	1.000
Chemical Industries	12700	15770	1.200	1.280	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	42250	30949	0.750	0.740	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	200	268	1.330	1.340	1.000
National Steel Industries	17900	47229	2.530	2.640	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	117174	208190	1.670	1.820	1.000
General Mining	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	4167	29409	7.040	7.090	1.000
Jordan Link & Brick	1298050	284254	0.170	0.230	1.000
National Industries	1300	650	0.500	0.500	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	3530	3442	0.970	0.970	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	4450	4940	1.110	1.110	1.000
Rafaa Industrial for Plastic Bags	100	80	0.880	0.800	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	2012	5755	2.820	2.860	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	48950	32230	0.650	0.670	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tanning	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	36	475	13.200	13.200	1.000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	19900	19163	0.950	0.970	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	121282	115190	0.940	0.970	1.000
Jordan Cement Chemicals	238790	746827	3.210	3.360	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Factories	66296	66041	0.990	1.000	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	24400	24323	0.950	1.000	1.000
Grand total	3,268,409	3,323,178			

## Soviet economy improves

MOSCOW (AP) — Labour productivity, industrial output and other aspects of the Soviet economy have improved in the past two years, but the changes cannot yet be considered permanent, government officials said Friday.

The official news agency TASS carried a report on a meeting of the council of ministers that reviewed the Soviet Union's economic results for 1987.

The report said all branches of the economy met their targets in 1987 for improvements in labour productivity, a key to Mikhail S. Gorbachev's effort to restructure the economy.

Gorbachev is seeking to improve the quality and quantity of Soviet industry by demanding better discipline, cutting red tape and employing modern management and technology.

TASS said the proportion of capital investment that went to retooling and reconstruction, an indication of Gorbachev's desire to improve current facilities rather than build new ones, increased from 39 per cent in 1985 to 46 per cent in 1987.

Industrial production increased 8.9 per cent in 1986-1987, the first two years of the current five-year plan, TASS said.

The report also said that im-

provements in the agricultural economy also were taking shape. The grain harvest of 210 million tons, about equal to the 1986 harvest, was 17 per cent higher than the average during the previous five-year plan, it said. Production of meat and milk also increased substantially, TASS said.

But TASS said the ministers, who form the Soviet government's cabinet, found "that the positive changes in the economy have not yet become stable."

Many state-run enterprises are operating at a loss and wasting money, it said. Beginning Jan. 1, new reforms went into effect by which many state-run businesses are expected to balance their expenditures and income.

The ministers gave directives to key industries such as machine-building, chemical and timber, construction, transportation and agricultural industries for improving their performance, TASS said.

The subscription period ended Friday for the Soviet Union's first-ever public bonds issue, but dealers said the final public reaction to the deal would only be seen next week when the bonds begin official trading on the stock exchange in Zurich.

The issue of 100 million Swiss francs (\$75 million) was launched by Moscow's Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs in the USSR. Subscription to the 10-year, five per cent issue, with an interest rate of 101 per cent of par value, was open from Jan. 19-22.

A spokesman for the lead manager, the Zurich-based bank Fier Kredit Uod Aussenhandel, said last week that the response to the issue seemed "very positive" including that of institutional investors.

Dealers said Friday that the final public reaction to the bonds would not be seen before Tuesday, when the bonds begin official trading on Swiss Stock Exchanges.

The issue marks the first time the Soviet Union has gone to the public bond market since the 1917 October revolution. Moscow has been active in other capital markets by raising substantial internationally syndicated bank loans.

## Wall Street moves higher

NEW YORK (R) — Wall Street, buoyed by improving fortunes on the bond market and a steady dollar, closed higher on Friday despite persistent confusion about prospects for the U.S. economy.

The Dow Jones industrial average staged a last hour spurt to close 24.20 points higher at 1,903.51 after trading no more than 14 points higher the rest of the day. For the week, the key index lost 52.56 points.

Volume was a scant 147,050,000 shares as gaining shares outweighed declining ones by 3-to-1.

The dollar was mixed against most of the world's major currencies in tepid trading. It closed unchanged against the yen at 127.20 and fell fractionally

against the Deutsche mark to close at 1.6680 against 1.6645 on Thursday.

"A lot of traders have lost their sense of direction for the dollar, at least for the short term," said James Vick of Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co.

Spirits on the bond market were more upbeat, traders said, spurred by rumours that Japan would take part in the next major treasury refunding and by a return of investing interest from the retail sector.

The key 30-year bond rose almost half a point to close at 102-12/32, sending its yield sinking to 8.66 per cent, its lowest level since it touched 8.56 per cent July 17, 1987.

Much of the week's market decline could be traced to a small-

## Eastman Kodak to buy Sterling Drug

NEW YORK (R) — The photographic and chemical company Eastman Kodak on Friday agreed to buy Sterling Drug for about \$5.15 billion, topping Hoffmann-La Roche's latest hostile offer of \$4.65 billion.

Eastman Kodak, which has been moving into the drug business, said it would pay Sterling shareholders \$89.50 a share. Sterling makes Bayer Aspirin and other over-the-counter drugs.

Swiss-based Roche raised its offer to \$81 a share on Thursday after its first offer of \$72 had been rejected by the New York company as grossly inadequate.

Sterling's shares closed off 12.5 cents at \$78.75 on the New York Stock Exchange. The market had closed nearly an hour before Eastman Kodak's surprise announcement.

Sterling's board is recommending that its shareholders accept Kodak's cash tender offer, which will begin as soon as practicable

and will expire in 20 business days.

Kodak Chairman Colby Chandler said the merger would slightly dilute the company's earnings for the first year, but he said he was confident the company could absorb the big acquisition.

"We expect the merger to generate a positive operating cash flow as early as two years and to contribute positively to Kodak's earnings perhaps as quickly as within three years," Chandler said in a statement.

"I can think of no other com-

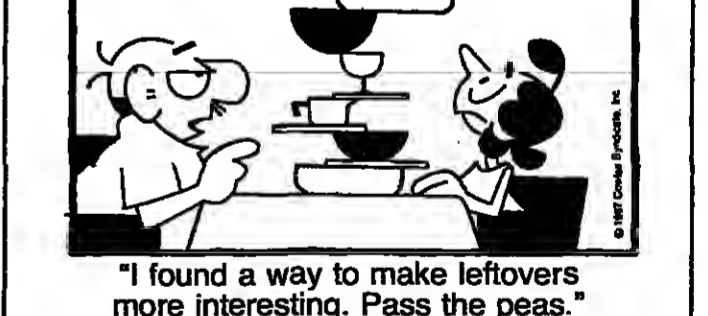
pany which can bring to Sterling as many benefits as can Kodak," he said.

Sterling, based in New York, on Jan. 5 received a \$4.2 billion offer from Roche, which makes the tranquilisers Valium and Librium.

Roche, determined to acquire its American prey and Sterling's over-the-counter distribution network, raised its offer twice, to \$4.4 billion on Monday and \$4.65 billion on Thursday. Roche also extended its offer to Feb. 3.

## Turkey hikes fuel prices again

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has raised fuel prices by up to 9.4 per cent, the second increase in less than two months, state radio said Saturday. The increases, effective immediately for Ankara province, follow rises of up to 30 per cent on petroleum products from Dec. 2. Prices for other provinces will be announced later. Super grade petrol was raised 6.9 per cent to 404 lira a liter (37 cents) and ordinary grade by 7.3 per cent to 383 lira (34 cents). Kerosene and diesel fuel prices rose 9.4 per cent. Turkey imports most of its oil. It bought 18 million tonnes worth \$2.48 billion in the first 11 months of 1987.



"I found a way to make leftovers more interesting. Pass the peas."

## JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DEGEH

ROWBE

YALAWY

WEVILS

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

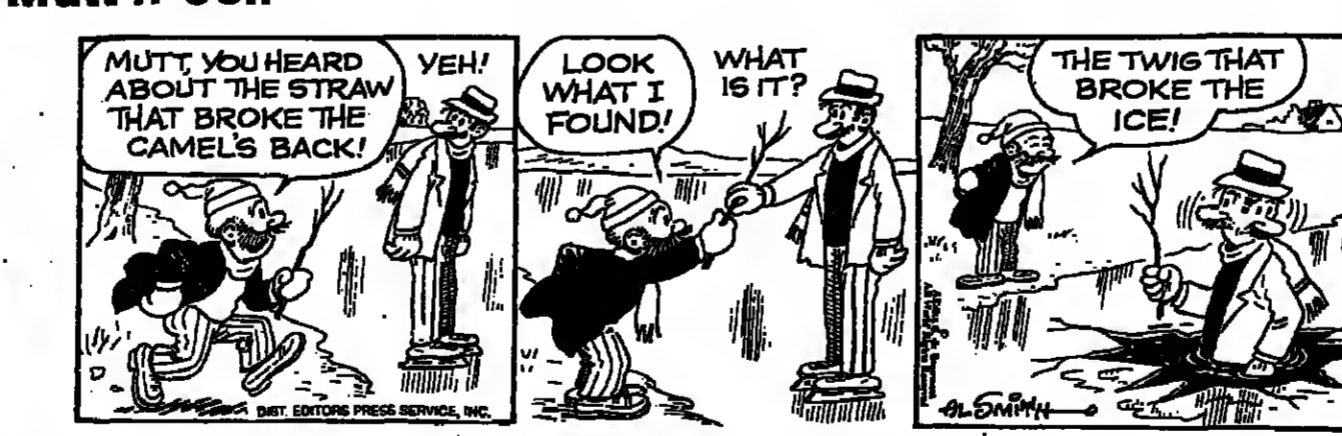
Answer: " " (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GAVEL ALIAS BUMPER SOCKET Answer: What to use if you want to catch a catfish — A MOUSE AS BAIT

## Peanuts



## Mutt'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



## THE Daily Crossword

by Gards W. Bowman



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

- 1. Minimal
- 2. Railways
- 3. Onagers
- 4. Speechify
- 5. Sweet potato
- 6. Stanzas
- 7. Packaging material
- 8. Grande
- 9. Dice number
- 10. East of
- 11. Editor
- 12. Occasion
- 13. Coloring
- 14. Bells
- 15. Edible tuber
- 16. Hit hard
- 17. Certain
- 18. defense arm
- 19. Vanzetti's co-defendant
- 20. Solitary
- 21. Sled
- 22. White city
- 23. Anger
- 24. Roundish
- 25. Ship part
- 26. Preliminary
- 27. Ancient old
- 28. style
- 29. Resources
- 30. Plently
- 31. nois
- 32. Double curve
- 33. Regrets
- 34. Skill
- 35. Hooded animal
- 36. Author Boris
- 37. Stir over
- 38. Fore and —
- 39. Relative
- 40. 27 " — and Ale"
- 41. Malay (Isthmus)
- 42. Jai' al' ai basket
- 43. Captured
- 44. Ages and
- 45. Kefauver
- 46. US playwright
- 47. Flasks
- 48. WWI town
- 49. Me wrote
- 50. "Kubla Khan"
- 51. Zoroastrian
- 52. Garish light
- 53. "Sims and
- 54. "Lower" writer
- 55. Full

## Yugoslavia confirms KAL bombers stayed in Belgrade

**BELGRADE (R)** — Yugoslav security officials confirmed Saturday that a couple suspected of blowing up a South Korean airliner last November stayed in Belgrade for five days shortly before the incident.

The news agency Tanjug, quoting a statement from the security services, said police in South Korea, with which Communist, non-aligned Yugoslavia has no diplomatic relations, had asked Yugoslavia through Interpol to provide information.

The KAL Boeing 707 with 115 people on board disappeared on Nov. 29 while flying from Baghdad to Seoul.

Kim Hyon-Hui, a 26-year-old who said she was a North Korean agent, confessed at a televised news conference in Seoul last week that she helped plant a bomb on the plane. Her companion committed suicide on being arrested in Bahrain.

The Yugoslav authorities said the couple arrived here by plane from Vienna on Nov. 23 and left

on a flight for Baghdad on Nov. 28, where investigators say they joined the doomed KAL flight. Tanjug said they stayed at the Belgrade Metropol Hotel, confirming earlier reports by eyewitnesses.

It said they used the forged Japanese passports they had when they were detained in Bahrain after the plane disappeared.

"Since there was no suspicion that these were terrorists, there was neither any preliminary warning in this respect and during their stay in Belgrade no surveillance measures were applied on them," Tanjug said.

"While boarding the plane in Belgrade, regular checks of passengers and luggage were performed by detection devices used

by the airport enterprise Beograd.

"The control of personal luggage was additionally carried out by the Iraqi plane crew immediately before the passengers entering the plane," Tanjug said.

It said that it had been ascertained from ticket coupons that the couple had no other luggage.

The North Korean embassy in Belgrade has denied suggestions in the Japanese press that the couple may have obtained explosives from the embassy.

Yugoslav television last week quoted police as saying it was impossible that the woman could have smuggled a bomb on to the flight from Belgrade.

Yugoslavia has been accused several times by Western states in recent years of allowing passage to suspected guerrillas.

American Secretary of State George Shultz bitterly attacked Yugoslavia two years ago for allowing Abu Abbas, the suspected mastermind of the Achille Lauro cruise liner hijacking, to escape through its territory.

## Nicaraguan opposition rally turns violent

**MANAGUA (R)** — Foes and supporters of Nicaragua's left-wing government have pelted each other with stones at a rally, and several people were injured. A senior government official, meanwhile, blasted government opposition groups as "puppets of U.S. interests" and called for support of the revolution that ousted U.S.-backed dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979.

Witnesses said the violence apparently erupted after opposition youths tried to remove government banners hanging outside offices of the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinator (CDN), a coalition of 14 right-wing political parties and business groups.

Inside over 100 relatives of political prisoners were meeting CDN members in a protest rally watched by scores of journalists. Two U.S. embassy officials were present at a CDN news conference earlier, but left before the trouble began.

Young Sandinistas who had put up the banners clashed with CDN youths in a running street battle that lasted about 30 minutes before police arrived.

A high-ranking official later accused government opposition groups of working alongside U.S.-backed rebels.

"Those who never opposed Somoza are opposing our revolution," Bayardo Arce, a member of the Sandinistas' nine-man directorate, told a government rally.

"They paint themselves as valiant opponents of the revolution when they are no more than puppets of U.S. interests," Arce said in a speech honouring at least 40 Nicaraguans killed when Somoza's infamous National Guard opened fire on a protest march 20 years ago.

Opposition leaders said several people were slightly injured in Friday's violence.

In Washington, President Reagan, fighting hard for new aid to contra rebels, painted a black portrait of the Sandinista government.

In a speech to civic leaders at the White House, his second of the week, Reagan portrayed the Sandinistas as corrupt brutes who broke promises and could only be pushed into democratic reforms by contra pressure.

Failure to support the contras could lead to a Central America engulfed in turmoil and send masses of refugees heading for the United States, he said.

"It is by no means difficult to visualise a situation in which hundreds of thousands of Central Americans seek to escape violence and instability by streaming toward the American south west," Reagan said.

He is due to send a new aid request to Congress next Tuesday or Wednesday despite Sandinista actions they say are aimed at implementing the peace accord signed in Guatemala last August to end Central America's three guerrilla wars.

## Hart to return improper campaign contributions

**WASHINGTON (R)** — Former Senator Gary Hart said he will return to a Hollywood videotape producer some apparently improper political donations as his comeback bid for the presidency appeared to be stumbling.

It was the latest development in the Hart saga since he stunned other Democratic presidential hopefuls last month by returning to the race he quit in May amid a sex scandal.

During a campaign appearance in Iowa Friday, Hart said he was returning an unrevealed sum of money to Stuart Karl, a businessman who made a fortune with videotapes of Jane Fonda stay-in-home television movies.

Iowa will hold a series of voter meetings on Feb. 8 which will be the first major test of voter support for the seven seekers of the

Democratic presidential nomination and the six Republican aspirants for the White House.

A week after the Iowa caucuses, where voters will state presidential choices, New Hampshire will hold the nation's first primary. Over the coming months, other states will pick delegates to the national nominating conventions this summer.

"We have found that there may have been as many as four such contributions and based on the information we are returning those contributions to Mr. Karl," Hart told reporters during a campaign stop in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The Miami Herald reported on Wednesday that it had copies of checks for \$15,802 from Karl's account for goods and services for Hart's 1984 campaign — far beyond the \$1,000 legal ceiling.

## Soviets to visit Nevada test site

**LAS VEGAS (R)** — Soviet scientists will arrive in Las Vegas Sunday to visit the Nevada test site as part of a superpower agreement aimed at resolving differences over verification of treaties on limiting nuclear tests.

The team of about 20 scientists will be the first Soviet officials to tour the desert site north west of the Las Vegas under the deal signed in November.

Moscow opened its chief test site for the first time to U.S. experts earlier this month and Washington is returning the favour in preparation for what the two sides hope will be joint verification experiments.

As with most nuclear initiatives, plenty of controversy surrounds this one with some U.S. peace activists and congressmen saying it is a detour devised to sidetrack progress towards a comprehensive test ban (CTB) treaty.

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### Youth unearths ancient coins, rings

**NICOSIA (R)** — A young man has discovered a bowl full of ancient artifacts, including gold rings and turquoise beads, believed to be 2,000 years old, in an eastern Iranian village. Iran's News Agency IRNA has reported. The artifacts, discovered in a village near Birjand 780 kilometres south east of Tehran, belong to tribes which inhabited the area 2,000 years ago.

### Doctors amputate feet of frostbitten girl

**CHICAGO (R)** — Surgeons have amputated the feet of a nine-year-old girl who suffered severe frostbite after her mother locked her in their house. Doctors at the University of Chicago said they expected Darwin Carlisle would be in a cast for two weeks and then be fitted with a pair of artificial limbs. The child's mother, Darwin Britt, 24, was being held in jail at Crown Point, Indiana, charged with child neglect. The girl was found earlier this week in a house in Gary, Indiana, locked in her bedroom without heat, water or electricity. A neighbour said the girl told police her mother had told her she was "going out for cookies and milk" and would return in an hour. Police speculated the girl had been in the house several days before she was found, suffering from frostbite and gangrene.

### AIDS cases quadruple in Ireland

**DUBLIN (R)** — The number of new AIDS cases in Ireland has quadrupled in a year, health authorities have said. Twenty-one new cases were diagnosed in 1987, more than in the previous five years combined. The authorities said the major area of concern was intravenous drug users in Dublin. Some 35 people have now contracted AIDS in Ireland. Fifteen have died, three of them within the last month. "The situation is not good. The same pattern of infection is beginning to evolve here as in most other West European countries," government medical officer James Walsh said.

### Mammoth with 'tasty-looking flesh' found

**MOSCOW (R)** — Gold miners in the Soviet Far East have found the remains of a prehistoric mammoth whose flesh is in such good condition that it looks edible. Radio Moscow has said. The 4.3-metre long mammoth, killed 32,000 years ago, was unearthed by a bulldozer from frozen ground in the Bilibin gold fields of the Chukotka peninsula, the radio said. The miners were amazed at the good quality of its flesh and were tempted to cook a stew from it. Regional officials who took charge of the beast told the radio.

### Airport opens lounge for cows

**AMSTERDAM (R)** — Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport has opened a special departure lounge for cows to serve pre-flight food and drink to Europe's increasing number of jetsetters. A Schiphol spokesman has said the airport had built a 1,000 square-metre (10,000 square foot) cowshed where cows were fed and watered the animals before flights. "We expect the lounge to be busy. At least 10,000 Dutch cows pass through the airport each year on their way to destinations mainly in the Middle East," the spokesman told Reuters. Dutch flag carrier KLM said the number of animals carried by European airlines was increasing rapidly each year. KLM employs an eight-strong team of specially-trained animal stewards to look after them during flights. A spokeswoman said, "Last year KLM flew 1,700 horses, around 500 tonnes of tropical fish and about two million chickens." "There is certainly competition among airlines to fly them," Schiphol also has an animal hotel where a variety of birds can stay overnight to sleep off jetlag before continuing their journey, she said.

### Champagne sales rise in 1987

**PARIS (R)** — Sales of champagne rose by more than six per cent last year to 217.8 million bottles, the Champagne Trade Association, CIVC, has said. Four out of every 10 bottles were shipped abroad, and Britain remained the biggest foreign consumer of the luxury sparkling wine, followed by the United States and West Germany. The 1987 sales brought in more than 13 billion francs (\$2.3 billion), against some 12 billion francs (\$2.1 billion) in 1986 when shipments topped two million bottles for the first time. The spokesman said last year's harvest had been satisfactory both in quantity and quality, despite a cold, rainy spring and very mild summer weather.

### Nun, long dead, offered retirement

**RAHAN, Ireland (R)** — An Irish nun who taught for more than 40 years at a government school has been offered early retirement. But since making the offer, officials have learned that she has been dead since 1973. The debt-ridden Irish state is trying to cut 10,000 public service jobs and a Department of Education circular offering early retirement was sent to Sister Teresa McElligott. But government officials later were told that she had died 15 years ago.

### Team plans unaided walk to North Pole

**LONDON (R)** — British soldier-adventurer Sir Ranulph Twisleton-Wykeham-Fiennes announced plans to walk unaided to the North Pole, one of the Arctic's last remaining challenges. Sir Ranulph and two other members of the great British polar quest said they would attempt the 680-kilometre trek from Ward Hunt Island at the northernmost tip of Canada without the help of dogs, motorised transport or supply air-drops. They hope to reach the pole in about 60 days, starting on March 10 and manhandling their 160-kilogram sledges across the rugged pack ice in temperatures as low as minus 50 degrees Centigrade (minus 60 Fahrenheit). Sir Ranulph, 43, who in 1982 became one of the first two men to circumnavigate the globe via both poles, will be accompanied on the trek by two veterans of his other polar trips, Mike Stroud and Oliver Shepard. The trio will maintain radio contact with colleagues at the Ward Hunt Island base camp.

### Reagan supports abortion foes

**WASHINGTON (R)** — President Reagan has said he would soon implement a plan to withdraw federal funds from clinics that encourage abortion. During a telephone talk to the 15th annual "right to life" rally, he also asked for prayers for "the suffering of women who have had abortions and for the troubled mind with which so many Americans meditate on this issue." "We will soon publish regulations that will cut off federal, family-planning funds from abortion-related activities," Reagan said, referring to an administration move announced last year. On the lawn behind the White House, where Reagan's remarks were heard by loudspeaker, the crowd, which rally organisers estimated at over 50,000, roared its approval.

### Navy cadets collapse at parade

**SYDNEY, Australia (AP)** — Nearly 70 navy cadets were hospitalised Saturday after collapsing at a parade. A navy spokesman, Commander Charles Biscoe, ruled out food poisoning as the cause and blamed the mass collapse on a combination of high humidity and cramps from standing in one spot for a long time. Biscoe said the cadets had eaten at several places in the Sydney area, making it unlikely that they had eaten the same food. He said 68 cadets, from age 12 to 15, were among more than 500 youths taking part in a parade at the Domain, a public park in Sydney. Temperatures Saturday hovered around 25 degrees C (77 degrees F). The youngsters were treated at several city hospitals and released.

## Tamil rebels kill Sri Lankan official

**COLOMBO (R)** — Sri Lanka's chief civil servant in the north western district of Mannar was shot dead by suspected Tamil gunmen, officials said Saturday.

They said M.M. Makbool, the government agent in Mannar, was returning home Friday evening when four gunmen ambushed his car, led him into the jungle and killed him.

The officials said Makbool had been threatened by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

the eastern town of Batticaloa, a military spokesman said.

Many members of rival groups have been killed by the Tigers in its effort to establish itself as the dominant separatist organisation.

They have called for a general strike in the north and east Tuesday, the anniversary of India's Republic Day, to protest against an offensive by Indian soldiers sent to the island as a peace-keeping force.

## Cordovez flies to Kabul after Pakistan talks

**ISLAMABAD (R)** — United Nations mediator Diego Cordovez flew to Kabul Saturday after two days of talks with Pakistani leaders on ending the nine-year-old Afghan war, a U.N. spokesman said.

He told Pakistan television it

was important the ground should be well-prepared for the next round of peace talks in Geneva ending the conflict between the Soviet-backed Kabul government and Afghan guerrillas. He said he hoped the talks would be held next month.

"I am not optimistic, I am hopeful, which is quite different," Cordovez said in an interview Friday.

He said he had the impression since last March that the participants had begun to believe an agreement was possible.

## Yugoslav adviser implicates Waldheim in war crimes

**BELGRADE (Agencies)** — A Yugoslav adviser to an international commission investigating Kurt Waldheim said Saturday he had seen documents seriously implicating the Austrian president in war crimes.

Dusan Plence, an army historian and former head of the Yugoslav Military Archives, made the accusation in an interview with Belgrade television.

Extracts from the interview were broadcast by the official state news agency Tanjug, and Western diplomatic sources said this suggested an official seal of approval for the statement.

The documents we have examined seriously incriminate Austrian President Kurt Waldheim as regards war crimes on Yugoslav territory," Plence said.

Plence is adviser to the international commission appointed by Austria to investigate allegations that Waldheim was involved in Nazi war crimes while serving as an officer in the German army in the Balkans during World War II.

Waldheim, a former U.N. secretary-general elected Austrian president in 1986 amid international controversy over his role in the war, has denied the allegations, which originated from the New York based World Jewish Congress.

Commission members recently visited Yugoslav archives but have yet to publish their findings.

Plence said he had seen all relevant documents related to the Austrian president in Yugoslav archives and that Waldheim served in parts of Yugoslavia where the Nazis committed atrocities.

He said it was necessary to evaluate the extent of Waldheim's personal responsibility but that it was irrefutable that "Waldheim's activities were in the function of genocide."

Waldheim will address an official gathering to mark the 50th anniversary of Nazi Germany's annexation of Austria. Left-wingers protested the decision announced Friday.

Conservatives who had insisted that Waldheim speak at the March 11 anniversary hailed the move, which bolsters the president's position prior to next month's report by historians who investigated his controversial wartime record.

The announcement that Waldheim would speak at his official residence in Hofburg Palace came just five hours after word that he would not attend a parliamentary event recalling the Anschluss.

The decision to hold two separate meetings was a compromise worked out between the Socialist Party and their conservative partners in the coalition government, political sources said.

## 7 more killed in Punjab

**CHANDIGARH, India (R)** — Sikh separatists Saturday shot dead seven sleeping members of a family suspected of being police informers, the second mass killing in two days in northern India.

Police in the Punjab state capital Chandigarh, said the gunmen stormed into the home of Mohinder Singh in a Ferozepur district village in the early hours of the morning, killing him and six relatives.

The attack was carried out less than a day after four separatist gunmen with AK-47 assault rifles killed 10 Hindus doing their morning yoga exercises in a public park.

Saturday's victims were Sikhs and police sources said members of the family were apparently suspected of being police informers. The killings raised the death toll in Punjab to 21 in less than 24 hours.

Four other people, including a Hindu political leader and two Sikhs, were killed in separate incidents Friday, police said.

About 100 people have been killed in Punjab so far this month — more than double the number of those killed in January last year in violence caused by extremists fighting for a separate Sikh home called "Khalistan," the land of the pure.

More than 1,230 people were killed last year, compared with 640 in 1986.

Police have not identified any group responsible for Saturday's attack nor indicated whether the attacks were carried out by the same extremist groups.

The Press Trust of India said an organisation called the Khalistan Liberation Force had claimed responsibility for the attack in Barnala, home-town of former Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala.

Authorities in the north Indian states of Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, and the Delhi capital territory were placed on maximum alert Friday night.

Road-blocks were set up on roads into the capital. Police fear extremists would increase violence ahead of India's National Day celebrations Tuesday.

## Soviet sub heads towards India

A nuclear-powered attack submarine "leased" by the Soviet Union to India should arrive at its new home port early next month flying the Indian flag, U.S. Defence Department officials said Friday.

The officials, who asked not to be named, said the Soviet-made "Charlie I-Class" submarine had been renamed the Chakra by the Indians and could arrive at the port of Vishakhapatnam on India's east coast as early as Feb. 5.

Pravda said this meant a troop pullout could be completed in 1990.

The Nov. 29 elections were cancelled after gangs of thugs killed at least 34 people, many of them voters, while soldiers looked on.

The junta dissolved the independent Electoral Council that ran the Nov. 29 elections, named its own council and set out new election laws. The winner of Sunday's balloting has not yet been disclosed.

In a separate development, Louis Roy, a drafter of the liberal constitution that was overwhelmingly approved last March, was detained briefly at the airport upon his arrival from Puerto Rico on Friday.

No explanation was given and Roy, a 72-year-old physician, was released after about 2½ hours.

"This is an attempt to intimidate the opposition, to discredit us for allegedly asking for a foreign intervention. Neither Mr. Dejoie nor myself asked for that," Roy said.

"In the weeks leading up to last Sunday's junta-run national elections, Dejoie and other top candidates from the Nov. 29 vote called for a boycott of balloting. Dejoie travelled to Barbados, Washington, and Canada, criticising the junta and urging foreign governments to impose sanctions on it."

Dejoie was charged with inciting disorder.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Information said his release was conditional. "He still has to

appear again before justice," said the spokesman, who commented on condition of anonymity.

But Dejoie's lawyer, Georges Leger, said the section of the criminal code under which Dejoie was charged makes no allowances for provisional liberty, and so far as he knows, the case is closed.

The U.S. Ambassador to Haiti, Brunson McKinley, personally urged that Dejoie be released. The State Department issued a statement that read in part: "Freedom of speech is among the most basic human rights... we call on the governing national council (junta) to respect the right... Violation of that right will necessarily lead to further deterioration in relations with the U.S."

The three other leading presidential candidates in the failed Nov. 29 elections said they would call for a general strike if Dejoie was not released promptly or brought to trial.

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